



PROF. V.R.DADGE LIBRARY FOUNDATION, LATUR

in Collaboration with
Matsyodari Shikshan Sanstha's,
Arts, Science & Commerce College,
Ambad, Dist. Jalna (MS)

One day National Conference
on

**Viksit Bharat @2047:
Research, Innovation,
Artificial Intelligence and
Sustainable Development**

27th September 2025

VOLUME - I ISSUE - I

VIKSIT BHARAT @ 2047



Editor

Dr. Gopal D. Sagar
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Published By
Imaginative Ink Publications

IIP: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

ISSN: 3049-2734



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About Prof. V. R. Dadge Library Foundation

Prof. V. R. Dadge Library Foundation at Latur is a prestigious organization founded in 2013 by prominent personalities in the field of library and information science. This foundation was registered under the leadership of college librarian Prof. V. N. Mishra, who also honored the chair as the founder president of the trust. The primary objective of the foundation is to promote the profession of librarianship and facilitate the organization of conferences and seminars to explore new trends in higher education in India.

One of the notable initiatives of the Foundation is the Best Librarian Award, instituted in memory of late Prof. V. R. Dadge. This award recognizes significant contributions to the field of library, honors individuals who have demonstrated excellence and dedication in their profession. Through such initiatives, the Foundation strives to advance the standards of library science and support continued professional development among librarians.

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The library, a major strength of the institution, is among the best in Marathwada, fully computerized with SOUL 3.0, and providing access to nearly half a million online resources through NLIST and BAMU remote access. The college also maintains well-equipped laboratories, a central research lab, and advanced sports infrastructure, including an indoor sports playfield, shooting range, and gymnasium, offering facilities rarely found across rural Maharashtra.

Print and Published By

IIP : International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

Imaginative Ink Publications

Solapur-413006, Maharashtra, India

Email : imaginativeinkpublications@gmail.com

Contact Number: +91 8788140066

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Venue: Arts, Science & Commerce College, Ambad

Date: 27th September 2025, Saturday

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Editorial Note

As India strides confidently toward the centenary of its independence in 2047, the concept of Viksit Bharat, a completely developed nation has emerged as an inspiring vision. This journal issue examines how research, innovation, artificial intelligence (AI), and sustainable development can collaborate to turn that vision into reality.

The quality and inclusivity of our research ecosystem will define the upcoming decades. Essential and practical research in science, technology, social sciences, and humanities should continue to be central to national advancement. Innovation should reach beyond labs into schools, farms, industries, and neighborhoods, making sure new knowledge results in real advantages for all individuals.

Artificial intelligence emerges as a significant facilitator. AI provides unparalleled resources for efficiency and fairness across various fields, including precision agriculture, climate modelling, healthcare delivery, and digital governance. However, the implementation of these tools requires a meticulous equilibrium: ethical standards, strong data management, and a dedication to human-centred results are vital for ensuring that technological progress benefits society instead of dominating it.

Sustainable development is equally essential. Economic development must not occur at the expense of environmental harm or social injustice. The interconnected issues of climate change, resource management, and social justice demand research-based policies and creative solutions that protect both individuals and the environment.

This topic unites academics, professionals, and policy experts who shed light on these themes from various viewpoints. Their contributions, encompassing empirical research, theoretical analyses, and case studies, highlight that the journey to Viksit Bharat is neither straightforward nor one-dimensional. It necessitates cooperation among various disciplines, organizations, and age groups.

We aspire to motivate readers to actively confront the questions and possibilities that shape our shared future. Through encouraging conversation and sharing innovative concepts, this journal issue aims to contribute in a small but significant way to the development of a prosperous and inclusive India.

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Organizes a Multidisciplinary One day National Conference on
“Viksit Bharat @2047: Research, Innovation, Artificial Intelligence and Sustainable
Development” on 27/09/2025

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"The Role of AI, Machine Learning, Data Mining for Digital Libraries "

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Abstract

Information mining, the extraction of concealed prescient data from enormous data sets, is a strong new innovation with extraordinary potential to help the Libraries and Data Focuses to zero in on the main data in their information distribution centers. Information mining apparatuses anticipate future patterns and ways of behaving, permitting Libraries and Data Focuses administrators to make proactive, knowledgedriven choices. The mechanized, forthcoming investigations presented by information mining move past the examinations of previous occasions given by review apparatuses normal of choice emotionally supportive networks. Information mining devices can determine the issues in Libraries and Data Focuses particularly in a computerized climate. Information Mining has become fast approaching considering the plentiful development of advanced assets for its administration, association, and recovery and scattering of something similar to the right clients quickly to fulfill the shifted need of the clients because of between disciplinary exploration. Information Mining, Practicality of Information Mining, Cycle associated with Information Mining, and so forth. have been examined in this paper. Information Mining has been characterized in diverse ways with various ramifications by different associations and stalwarts. Information Mining can be alluded to a hurl of gathered information in different regions. It tends to be likened with the term, for example, information disclosure and this taint is an interaction which is related with examining information according to alternate points of view and condensing it into helpful data. The data can be utilized to increment income, reduces expenses, or both. Programming has been explicitly planned known as Information mining programming which has various scientific apparatuses for breaking down information. It permits clients to break down information from a wide range of aspects or points, sort it, and sum up the connections recognized. Actually, information mining is the most common way of tracking down connections or examples among many fields in enormous social

data sets Information Mining is a wording which alludes essentially to Information Extraction from a haul of information accessible in electronic structure.

Keywords: Mining , Machine learning , digital libraries, Data mining, exploration

Introduction

Throughout recent many years, Man-made brainpower (man-made intelligence) and AI (ML) have become significant impetuses of reshaping our reality and the manner in which we think, act and simply decide .As of late, a wide range of properties of AI and computerized reasoning have been embraced by many driving associations like Google, IBM, Amazon, Netflix, Expedia, etc to work on their items and administrations. Practically all significant areas like; wellbeing, training, climate, business, stock, horticulture, government and non-government organizations of various nations are likewise showing interest and utilizing these advances to streamline and kill responsibility, speed up efficiency, diminish human connection and in particular lead the computerized world in a brilliant and refined manner. Like some other fields, libraries and data areas are additionally integrating many interesting innovations into their arsenals. This is a direct result of the presence of everincreasing volumes of information, which is frequently alluded to as large information; the necessity of realtime information handling and producing results; furthermore, the assorted requirements of the library benefactors continuously driving the library and data areas to the brink. Then again, the significant headway in PC handling rate and limit; fame of involving the organized climate for information handling and so on., are a portion of the significant potential mixes that make the likelihood to mining continuous information and convey data yields as needs be (Johnson, et. al., 2015). For example, Use of simulated intelligence and ML is useful for better cooperation among shrewd innovations to improve the viability of various libraries that at last moves the conventional library administrations to canny library frameworks, by rotating clients' requirements and giving adaptable and universal information administrations. Hence, ML strategies that give computational answers for naturally securing new information become pivotal for the improvement of a really clever library , which is similarly powerful regardless of time, spot, or area . Consequently, it tends to be contended that the presentation of artificial intelligence and ML has made another skyline in reforming both specialized and client administrations in libraries. Self-learning and self doing skill of man-made intelligence and ML can help libraries for better association among machine-mechanized clever advancements for the adequacy and co-

making of all library administrations. Be that as it may, to adapt up to the changed situation, administrators need to change their jobs and advance the change of library tasks and administrations helped with AI and falsely shrewd innovations. With the improvement exertion of the previously mentioned savvy advances, an extensive variety of exploration has been led for figuring out the peculiarities and making development in this field. In this way, to follow the turn of events and scholarly design of an information space, it is important to realize about the current examination concentration and consequently picturing the eventual fate of a specific area. Accordingly, this study tries to figure out the present status of the specialty of the man-made intelligence and ML applications into libraries and to anticipate where future exploration will lead.

Viability of Data Mining

Information Recovery, similar to Information Mining, extricates intriguing information and data from documents and different data sets. The distinction between Information Recovery and Information Mining is that, not normal for Information Digging the standards for separating data are chosen ahead of time so they are exogenous from the extraction its-self. Further, Information Mining is not quite the same as Information Recovery as it look through the connections and relationship between the obscure peculiarities. To make reference to a short history, Wal-Shop named after Sam Walton of USA is the one of the greatest American Public Enterprise was the principal association to utilize the Information Digging innovation for its staple and consumable business and this method are basically connected with numerous public and global organizations with a solid customer concentrate, for example, retail, monetary, correspondence and showcasing. This additionally empowers the organizations to decide the connections among inside variables, for example, items, administration, staff and the outer factors, for example, rivalry and so on. While enormous scope data innovation has been developing separate exchange and insightful frameworks, information mining gives the connection between the two. Information mining programming examines connections and examples in put away exchange information in light of unconditional client questions. A few kinds of scientific programming are accessible: factual, AI, and brain organizations. The brain networks in light of the idea of Counterfeit Brain Organization (ANN) is a data handling worldview that is enlivened by the way natural sensory systems, like the cerebrum, process data. The vital component of this worldview is the original design of the data handling framework.

Background

Man-made reasoning Man-made consciousness (artificial intelligence) is the capacity empowered by a computerized PC or computer controlled machine or programming reproducing scholarly qualities like savvy organic entities (human) in their usefulness. Significant man-made intelligence researchers and course books characterize this field as the plan and improvement of "a completely cognizant, keen, PC based element" that enjoys natural upper hands over human in seeing the climate and boosting the outcome of mind boggling errands (Russell and Norvig, 2003). John McCarthy, who authored the term in 1955, characterizes simulated intelligence as "the science and designing of making wise machines". The focal objectives of man-made intelligence are to reason, find, sum up, control items and normal language handling and so forth. Computer based intelligence has been the subject of extraordinary energy as of late in fluctuated disciplines like software engineering, brain research, math, data science, semantics, and other particular spaces. On account of LIS, the most expanded man-made intelligence presence has been distinguished as the presence of the master framework. The utilization of master frameworks not just aides the library experts in playing out the essential library tasks yet in addition helps in dynamic cycle and improvement in efficiency. Artificial intelligence can think and carry on like a human with no human impedance, it can assist in the development of a shrewd library with dormant keen jobs to perform without the interruption of human help. Self ability to learn of simulated intelligence can demonstrate vital to libraries as far as client taking care of, systems administration and correspondence. Simulated intelligence advancements additionally could be utilized to give inventive continuous virtual reference administrations through portable and long range interpersonal communication conditions, by consolidating the current library assets and outsider items. Furthermore, a few other promising areas of computer based intelligence in libraries incorporate normal language handling, ordering frameworks, and utilization of mechanical technology in library exercises.

Machine Learning

The term 'AI' was first begat by Arthur Samuel in 1959 after Alan Turing's talk at the London Numerical Society back in February 20, 1947 where he said that we believe such a machine with the capacity should gain from encounters . Subsequently, Samuel characterized AI or ML as a "field of review that empowers PCs to learn without being unequivocally modified" characterizes AI as "... when machines make their own groupings by gaining from models,

decisively speeding up measurable example acknowledgment. ML studies and creates calculations by anticipating on information through uncovering complex examples for going with smart choices. In this manner, in layman's terms, AI includes utilizing PCs to recognize designs inside a lot of information. As the name proposes, that's what AI suggests, after some time as experience gathers the PC will turn out to be better at performing insightful undertakings. In any case, what makes AI conceivable are learning calculations, which work with one of the two fundamental learning model methodologies administered and unaided or non-managed learning. These calculations can be portrayed essentially as; bit by bit guidelines that permit a PC to tackle a specific kind of learning issue. AI has now been considered as a distinct advantage through connecting answers for confounded certifiable issues in a versatile manner valuable with an extensive variety of processing undertakings. AI is in some cases fluxed with information mining where AI focuses on forecast based on known properties that are gained from the preparation information; also, information mining then again, centers around the disclosure of obscure properties in the information. The inquiry is the way that AI technologie are material to libraries? Short solution to this question is, the open doors and conceivable outcomes are boundless. For example, ML procedures could be valuable for asset revelation. The web crawlers and different information collecting instruments can be applied for computerization and high level groupings of data assets to rethink the asset openness of library clients (Mitchell, 2006). Information mining methods can likewise be utilized to gather information from both homogenous and heterogeneous frameworks for understanding the library utilizations designs .

Data Mining Process

A progression of exercises or cycles are engaged with Information Mining and this is a logical cycle which is intended to investigate information from a decent piece of information and this is associated with looking through course of reliable examples as well as precise connections among factors, and afterward to approve the discoveries by applying the identified examples to new subsets of information. A definitive objective of information mining is expectation and this prescient information mining is the most widely recognized sort of information mining which has the immediate business applications. It won't be awkward to specify that, the Prescient Information Mining is perpetually utilized to distinguish information mining projects with a desire to perceive a measurable or brain network model or set of models that can be utilized to

foresee some reaction of interest. The course of information mining comprises of seven stages, for example,

Objective of the analysis;

- ❖ Determination, association of the information;
- ❖ Exploratory investigation and change of information;
- ❖ Determination of the factual techniques to be utilized while breaking down the information;
- ❖ Examination of the information on picked strategy;
- ❖ Assessment and correlation of the techniques and decision for conclusive strategy; what's more,
- ❖ Translation for dynamic interaction.

The main phase of Investigation regularly is equivalent with information planning which includes cleaning of information by eliminating the repetitive components which follows information changes. From there on, subsets of records are being chosen where each instance of informational collections figures with huge quantities of factors ("fields"). Contingent on the factual strategies utilized, activity part is done to carry the quantity of factors to a reasonable reach. Model structure and approval is the second stage in Information Investigation which includes thinking about different models and picking the best one in light of their prescient exhibition . This might seem like a basic activity, yet as a matter of fact, it at times includes an extremely intricate cycle. There are various strategies created to accomplish that objective - a considerable lot of which depend on purported "cutthroat assessment of models," that is, applying various models to similar informational collection and afterward contrasting their exhibition with pick the best. These strategies - which are much of the time considered the center of prescient information mining - include: Sacking , Helping, Stacking (Stacked Speculations), and Meta-Learning.

Research Themes and Areas of Libraries

By checking on the utilization of man-made intelligence and ML for libraries in the chose articles, a complete number of ten topics arose, these are; assortment building and the board, handling in libraries, course and client studies, reference administration, library organization, library customization and recovery, exploration and grant, administration quality and advancement, keen specialists for data search and recovery, concentrate on execution and

existing innovations and arrangement. sums up these applications and orders the references as for the writing highlights they have researched. The third and last stage connects with Arrangement which includes utilizing the chose model best suit to the past stage and applying it accordingly, to new information to produce expectations or appraisals of the normal result.

Elements of Data Mining

The components of Information Mining can be extensively gathered under six headings, for example,

- ❖ Separate, change, and burden exchange information onto the information stockroom framework.
- ❖ Store and deal with the information in a complex data set framework.
- ❖ Give information admittance to business investigators and data innovation experts.
- ❖ Break down the information by application programming.
- ❖ Present the information in a valuable configuration, like a chart or table.

Levels of Analysis

Levels of examination engaged with Information Mining can be summed up as

- ❖ Counterfeit Brain Organizations;
- ❖ Hereditary Calculations;
- ❖ Choice Trees;
- ❖ Closest Neighbor Technique;
- ❖ Rule Acceptance; what's more,
- ❖ Information Perception.

Processing in Libraries

A portion of the significant exercises for any libraries incorporate procurement, handling, assortment building and the executives. Simulated intelligence assists with potential shrewd jobs like, information securing, information curation, and information quality control . In addition, simulated intelligence can be used in listing, characterization, obtaining of assortments, ordering and the executives exercises also. Then again, AI aids libraries for metadata age, asset disclosure, and rich full-text ID and extraction . AI is utilized to create subject headings, for instance, metadata straightforwardly depicting the asset (and supplemental metadata about the creator or subjects . Different clever innovations are likewise utilized for further developing better library

tasks and administrations through computer based intelligence and ML advances, for example, wise racks. Insightful rack is equipped for perusing books on the racks, albeit the actual rack can't tell the particular area for a book. Nonetheless, a wise perusing table in the Library, which can gather data about clients' understanding propensities and this data, can be utilized in the course of action of assortments and racks.

Library Administration

Furthermore, a few independent specialists foster their own details in the wake of watching the client's advantages, while a few other independent specialists figure out the dead connections in the computerized libraries and attempt to fix them or illuminate the head . Nonetheless, Kevin Cullen takes note of that Information mining is acted in an information distribution center. While a functional information base framework like a coordinated library framework (ILS) is enhanced for handling exchanges an information stockroom is upgraded for investigation. This makes it more straightforward to track down designs and try not to stall the value-based system. Information mining procedures are in a general sense information decrease and representation methods. As the quantity of aspects develops, the quantity of potential blends of decisions for dimensionality decrease detonates. For an investigator investigating models, it isn't for all intents and purposes conceivable to go through the different approaches to projecting the aspects or choosing the right sub tests (decrease along segments and lines). Information mining depends on machine-based investigation of a considerable lot of the conceivable outcomes before a chose decreased set is introduced to the investigator for criticism.

The improvement of computational calculations is different components of Information Digging which is utilized for the recognizable proof or extraction of construction from information. This has become fundamental to comprehend, examine the information. Errands upheld by information mining incorporate expectation, division, reliance displaying, synopsis, and change and deviation discovery. Information base frameworks have brought computerized information catch and capacity to the standard of information handling, prompting the formation of enormous information stockrooms. These are information bases whose main role is to get sufficiently close to information for investigation and choice help. Conventional manual information investigation and investigation requires exceptionally prepared information investigators and is insufficient for high dimensionality and monstrous informational collections.

An informational index can be seen dynamically as a bunch of records, each comprising of values for a bunch of aspects .

Use of Data Mining in Libraries

In the advanced situation, the Libraries and Data Focuses use to aggregate an ever increasing number of computerized information, process, oversee and file consistently. Because of multiplication of data abundance in the help fragments, for example, Libraries Information Digging has become up and coming for compelling and moment recovery of data. Information mining which has a ton of suggestions as a training in the Libraries and Data Focuses can be worked with diverse understandings in regards to its utilization. The ALA site has various things composed on information mining. For instance: Information mining is the act of conglomerating data about customers' inclinations and interests from various sources, including treats, secrecy information programming, willful buys, and mailing records, determined to make far reaching profiles. Most frequently the profiles are utilized for designated promotions. Be that as it may, bureaucratic and nearby states are likewise progressively depending on information mining to collect profiles to examine different crook and deceitful exercises Such complex examination is reliant upon a key qualification. Information mining isn't handily finished from frameworks that at present oversee library administrations.

Library Customization and Retrieval

One more significant area of executing man-made intelligence and ML is data search and recovery. Specialist innovation has been utilized to help the data search process in DLs, including key pursuit support, proactive help for question detailing, canny help to data search and recovery, and customized administrations to clients. An agentbased engineering upholds undeniable level pursuit movement in unified DLs consolidating the upsides of past methodologies. Contingent upon the interest of the client, clever programming specialists search the DLs and return the data which the client is searching for and furthermore through the individual specialists, clients can alter their points of interaction (Kumar and Srinivas, 2004). In this way, administrators presently will generally involve falsely savvy answers for propelling the better, speedier and proficient course of securing, handling and examination of data to address data issues of clients . Investigating and breaking down information mining suggests digging through hurl of information to spread out examples and connections held inside the association including business movement. Information mining should be possible physically by cutting the

information until a right example ends up being self-evident. It should likewise be possible with programs that can dissect the information consequently. Information mining has turned into a significant part for keeping up with the Client Relationship The board

Information mining is a particularly amazing asset in the assessment and examination of enormous data sets. With the coming of the Web, immense measures of information are collecting. Too, how much information that can be created from a solitary logical examination where stretches of DNA are fastened to a glass chip can falter. Visual investigation of the information is as of now not adequate to make a significant understanding of the data. PC driven arrangements are required. For instance, to break down the DNA chip information, the discipline of bioinformatics — basically an information mining exercise — arose during the 1990s as a strong merging of science and software engineering. The equations utilized in information mining are known as calculations. Two normal information mining calculations are relapse examination and characterization investigation. Relapse investigation is utilized with mathematical information. This examination develops a numerical recipe that portrays the example of the information. The recipe can be utilized to anticipate future way of behaving of information, as is known as the prescient model of information mining. Information that isn't mathematical is called subjective information. To dissect this data, characterization investigation is ideal. This model of information mining is otherwise called the elucidating model. The information mining process includes a few stages, for example,

User Study on AI and ML Implemented in Libraries

There have been a few examinations tracked down in the survey that explored the way of behaving of clients from and machine-empowered and clever library. Nardi and O'Day in their 1996 paper has all the earmarks of being quick to present the idea of a smart reference bookkeeper for client administration through the utilization of counterfeit specialist in libraries. As displayed in the writing, client demonstrating in advanced libraries is likewise being finished through AI by following the course of information preprocessing, design revelation and approval. Client concentrate on the utilization of conversational specialist inside and outside libraries including scholarly, educational, assistive exercises for virtual warning help, reference administration to the clients . Administration nature of shrewd library are additionally being estimated according to alternate point of view like innovation acknowledgment, research information the board and so forth.

Existing AI & ML Technologies and Solutions in Libraries

A few papers connected with the simulated intelligence and ML advancements and their answers in Libraries were viewed as significant as to help an assortment of library tasks like peruser rating, asset disclosure, conveyance and protection using recommender frameworks, connected information, master frameworks, robots and so forth. While information records might exist truly in a data set framework in a pattern that traverses many tables, the legitimate view is of worry here. Information bases with many aspects present key issues that rise above inquiry execution and streamlining. A principal issue is question definition: How can it be to give information get to when a client can't indicate the objective set precisely, as is expected by a customary data set inquiry language like SQL (Organized Question Language)? Choice help questions are challenging to state. For instance, which records are probably going to address extortion in Mastercard, banking, or broadcast communications exchanges? Which records are generally like records in table A however unlike those in table B? What number of bunches are in a data set and how are they described? Information digging strategies take into consideration PC driven investigation of the information, consequently conceding a more conceptual model of connection than SQL grants .

Discussion

The use of man-made reasoning and AI in libraries is an arising pattern that has caught the consideration of applicable specialists and scholastics. The point of this efficient audit has been to distinguish the use of computerized reasoning and AI in libraries, while surveying how these advancements could help and support the library tasks and administrations. 32 papers were recognized, examined and summed up on the utilization of computer based intelligence and ML space and strategies which are most frequently utilized. Albeit this audit couldn't actually be comprehensive, it features significant ramifications and give sensible bits of knowledge: The present status of the simulated intelligence and ML research that is significant with the LIS space for the most part centers around hypothetical works. Notwithstanding, a few specialists likewise stressed on execution ventures or contextual investigations. As indicated by the writing, man-made intelligence could shape the library activities and administrations with the emphasis on the library's essential tasks, organizations, research, grant, administration advancement, convenience, recovery, etc. For assortment the board in libraries, a few ML procedures like strategic relapse, KNN, recommender framework, SVM, affiliation rule have been used. Library in-house

exercises like; listing, grouping, ordering, report investigation, text acknowledgment and so on., have been upheld by both man-made intelligence and ML innovations. Some high level simulated intelligence and ML procedures like example acknowledgment and MAS are additionally being utilized to guarantee library security; client ID; book title acknowledgment; RFID the executives, and other organization exercises. Profound learning, brain network calculations, convolutional brain networks have additionally been demonstrated as amazing assets for grant, assortments revelation, search and examination.

Conclusion

Information Mining is quite possibly of the main boundary in the time of computerized period. The need and utilization of information mining has become fundamental to make due, coordinate, and spread data to the right clients at perfect opportunity. However it is principally expected for the business class, still then it has commonsense ramifications in Libraries and Data Focuses because of overpowering development of writing particularly in computerized designs. Presently a-days, an ever increasing number of computerized information are being gathered, handled, oversaw and documented in Libraries and Data Focuses to suit to the changed need of the client networks consistently. Calculations, programming devices, and frameworks to mine it are basic to a wide assortment of issues in all business, science, public safeguard, designing, and medical services including Libraries and Data Focuses. Significant advances engaged with Information Mining are Information Cleaning where information is to be cleaned from crude information for information mining and measurable displaying, Information Store which is utilized to prepare with information for information mining, Determined Qualities on information, Demonstrating, Post Handling, and Arrangement Information Mining accordingly has become irreplaceable for perfect administration, association and recovery of information from sea of data in Libraries and Data Focuses.

Furthermore, a falsely clever conversational specialist or chatbot fills in as a virtual reference custodian. It improves eye to eye human communication for library site local escorts, mechanized virtual reference partners, perusers' warning bookkeepers, and virtual narrators. Regardless, as a methodical survey concentrate on this examination likewise has a few impediments. The review, right off the bat, inspects papers separated in light of explicit watchwords, for example, "AI" and "man-made reasoning" and "librar*". Articles which referenced the utilization of computer based intelligence and ML strategies in libraries without

these watchwords might have been excluded during the recovery cycle. Furthermore, discoveries depend on information gathered exclusively from scholastic diaries and meeting papers, so different materials which might contain more examinations on issues could have been prohibited. Thirdly, articles from the set number of data sets were incorporated. Nonetheless, albeit this impediment could imply that the survey isn't thorough, the creators accept that it is far reaching by giving sensible experiences into the work being achieved in the LIS research area. Notwithstanding the limit, this study could help in the advancement of groundbreaking thoughts and models or devices to help and improve the current assistance ecologies of libraries. This study will give an all encompassing perspective on man-made intelligence and ML in libraries for scientists, professionals and teachers for facilitating the more innovation situated approaches, and expecting future development pathways.

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The Role of Libraries in Disaster Management and Resilience: Enhancing Community Preparedness and Response

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1. Abstract

Disasters, both natural and human-made, pose significant threats to communities worldwide, necessitating robust disaster management and resilience frameworks. Libraries, traditionally seen as centers for knowledge and learning, are increasingly recognized for their vital role in disaster preparedness and response. This paper explores how libraries can support disaster management by acting as local information hubs, disseminating critical guidelines, providing emergency resources and ensuring digital access during crises. The study highlights best practices, technological innovations and community engagement strategies that enable libraries to enhance resilience, facilitate effective communication and contribute to sustainable disaster recovery.

2. Keywords: disaster management, resilience, libraries, community preparedness, digital access, emergency resources, information dissemination

3. Introduction

Disasters affect millions of people annually, disrupting lives, infrastructure and access to vital information. Effective disaster management hinges on timely communication, accessible information and community preparedness. Libraries possess unique capabilities to serve as trusted local institutions that facilitate access to information and resources before, during and after disasters. This research paper investigates the multifaceted roles libraries can play in disaster management and building community resilience.

4. Literature Review

4.1. Bhola (2017) highlights libraries as essential community hubs for disaster preparedness and response, emphasizing their role in education, resource dissemination and collaboration with emergency services, while calling for increased funding and technology integration.

4.2. Kaur & Singh (2024) review literature on libraries' disaster management roles, focusing on how libraries provide inclusive access to information, support community resilience and adapt services during emergencies to meet diverse population needs.

4.3. **Mukherjee & Basu (2024)** examines disaster preparedness in libraries systematically, underscoring the importance of technological tools like GIS and AI in enhancing libraries' disaster information services and continuous operation during crises.

4.4. **Shrestha (2021)** studies Sri Lankan university libraries' disaster preparedness, citing challenges such as lack of formal disaster plans and infrastructure but emphasizing libraries' potential in raising awareness and supporting recovery efforts.

4.5. **Cox & Pinfield (2025)** discuss libraries as resilience hubs, describing their evolving role in community engagement, partnerships and technological adoption that strengthen disaster readiness and response capabilities.

4.6. **Du & Morrish (2008)** present an oral history project detailing library roles in disaster response, illustrating how libraries serve as information repositories and community support centers during various emergencies.

4.7. **Joseph (2025)** explores the role of technology in disaster preparedness for digital libraries, focusing on digital literacy, access to information and the use of advanced tools to mitigate disaster impacts on library services.

4.8. **Cox (2023)** reviews resilient libraries, articulating best practices such as inclusive communication strategies, disaster planning and infrastructure adaptation to maintain library functions during and after disasters.

4.9. "The Role of Public Libraries in Disasters" (n.d.) provides a comprehensive look at how public libraries worldwide serve as critical nodes for emergency information, community support and recovery resource distribution.

4.10. **Bhattacharya (2024)** emphasizes libraries' responsibility in disaster management through proactive engagement, digital resource provision and collaboration with government and NGOs to build safer, informed communities.

These reviews collectively affirm libraries' indispensable contributions to disaster management through information access, technological innovation, community engagement and resilience-building strategies.

5. Libraries as Local Information Centers in Disaster Preparedness

Libraries serve as accessible and reliable hubs within communities, making them ideal for disaster preparedness activities. They provide vital educational programs that raise awareness about risks and teach practical skills for emergency situations. By offering comprehensive materials—both print and digital—on evacuation routes, emergency contacts and safety protocols, libraries equip citizens with crucial knowledge. Collaborating with local authorities, libraries help ensure that disaster preparedness information is accurate and culturally relevant.

Their longstanding presence builds community trust, which is essential for effective communication during crises. This trusted relationship positions libraries to encourage community-wide engagement in resilience-building efforts. Furthermore, libraries often have established networks that can quickly disseminate important updates and warnings.

6. Dissemination of Emergency Resources and Guidelines

In times of disaster, access to timely and reliable information is often life-saving. Libraries take on the role of distributing emergency resources such as maps of shelters, food distribution centers and medical help points. They regularly update and translate materials to serve multilingual communities, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility. Digital communication channels managed by libraries, like websites and social media, play a critical role in broadcasting alerts and situational updates, thus reaching a broader audience. Printed materials distributed through libraries can serve populations that lack internet access or digital literacy. During crises, libraries act swiftly to maintain the information flow and combat misinformation, thereby supporting community safety and coordination. Their ability to adapt resource formats to the needs of different demographic groups further strengthens disaster response.

7. Ensuring Digital Access during Crises

Digital connectivity is often compromised during disasters, which can isolate affected populations from essential information and services. Libraries step in by providing computers with internet access, Wi-Fi hotspots and device charging stations, becoming critical access points. Mobile and pop-up library services extend these capabilities to remote or severely impacted areas, ensuring continuous information flow. In addition to physical infrastructure, libraries conduct digital literacy workshops focusing on navigating emergency apps, official portals and communication tools. This empowerment enables individuals to access government assistance, health services and community support independently. Libraries also assist vulnerable groups, like the elderly or those unfamiliar with digital technologies, ensuring equitable access. By bridging this digital divide, libraries maintain a vital lifeline between disaster-affected people and crucial resources.

8. Technological Innovations Supporting Library Disaster Services

Technological advancements have greatly enhanced libraries' capacity to contribute to disaster management. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) allow libraries to present detailed maps showing hazard zones, evacuation routes and resource centers, facilitating targeted community outreach. Artificial intelligence-driven tools, such as chatbots, can provide instant answers to frequently asked questions about emergency procedures and services, helping reduce overload on human operators. Cloud storage ensures that critical documents, research data and educational resources remain accessible even when local infrastructure is damaged. These tools also enable libraries to collect real-time data on disaster impacts, assisting first responders and planners. Moreover, automated inventory management systems help libraries maintain essential

emergency supplies and resources efficiently. Embracing such innovations allows libraries to remain resilient and responsive during crises.

9. Community Engagement and Partnerships

The success of disaster management efforts depends heavily on strong community ties and collaborative partnerships, areas where libraries excel. They act as coordinators for volunteer recruitment and emergency response training programs, nurturing local capacity to respond effectively. Libraries organize community forums and discussion panels that increase public awareness, provide feedback channels and foster dialogue on preparedness challenges and solutions. By partnering with government agencies, non-profits and healthcare providers, libraries integrate their services into broader disaster response networks, enhancing coordination and resource sharing. These partnerships also enable libraries to secure funding, expertise and technology essential for sustaining disaster programs. Fostering local leadership through these relationships helps empower communities to take ownership of their resilience-building efforts.

10. Case Studies and Best Practices

Around the world, libraries have demonstrated innovative approaches to disaster preparedness and recovery that serve as valuable models. Examples include libraries in disaster-prone regions offering 24/7 digital access to emergency information and functioning as temporary shelters. Others have set up maker spaces where community members learn to build emergency kits or communication devices. Successful programs focus on inclusivity, involving vulnerable groups in planning and training. Best practices emphasize multi-channel communication, from high-tech digital platforms to low-tech community bulletins, ensuring no community member is left uninformed. Libraries that maintain updated disaster response plans and conduct regular drills show higher resilience. These examples highlight the importance of flexibility, community involvement and continuous learning in library disaster services.

11. Challenges Facing Libraries in Disaster Management

Despite their important role, libraries face significant obstacles in fully realizing their disaster management potential. Limited budget allocations and infrastructural deficiencies often restrict the ability to maintain technology, expand services, or adapt facilities for emergency use. Staff may lack specialized training required for handling crisis situations and digital disaster tools. Geographic and socio-economic disparities also create challenges in reaching remote or underserved populations effectively. Additionally, libraries struggle with maintaining continuity of services during prolonged disasters or power outages. There can be difficulties in integrating library efforts seamlessly within wider emergency management frameworks due to lack of formal recognition or coordination. Addressing these challenges requires strategic planning, capacity building and increased advocacy for libraries' roles.

12. Opportunities for Libraries to Enhance Disaster Resilience

Emerging opportunities offer libraries a path to strengthen their impact on disaster resilience. Growing awareness of libraries as critical community assets has led to increased inclusion in disaster management policies and funding programs. Technological breakthroughs, including AI, IoT, remote access tools, open avenues for expanded services. Partnerships with tech companies and disaster agencies can provide resources and expertise to enhance library capabilities. Libraries are also uniquely positioned to promote equity by focusing on vulnerable populations and bridging digital divides. Expanding training programs for staff and volunteers will enable libraries to respond more effectively. By building on these opportunities, libraries can evolve into indispensable hubs for preparedness, response and recovery support in the journey toward safer, more resilient communities.

13. Conclusion

In conclusion, this research underscores the vital role that libraries play in disaster management and resilience. Libraries are not only repositories of information but also crucial community hubs that foster preparedness, support response efforts and facilitate recovery. By providing access to timely information, internet connectivity, emergency resources and safe gathering spaces, libraries empower communities to navigate crises more effectively. Additionally, the integration of disaster response training for library staff and the development of dynamic partnerships with local agencies further enhance their capacity to serve in emergencies. As climate-related and other disasters grow in frequency and intensity, it is essential for policymakers, community leaders and library professionals to recognize and strengthen the position of libraries within disaster preparedness and response frameworks. Promoting the proactive involvement of libraries will ensure that they continue to build resilient, informed and connected communities in the face of adversity.

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APPLICATIONS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN LIBRARIES

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ABSTRACT

Artificial intelligence (AI) has brought about new prospects for expanding research in all areas. The presence of artificial intelligence technologies in all spheres of work has made the future promising. The Application of AI has contributed immensely to the provision and use of library information resources and has helped to achieve the goals and objectives of the library. Librarians need to be innovative in their thinking to stay relevant in their jobs because AI has found numerous applications in libraries ranging from book filing to book delivery. Its application brought about several new possibilities in the library such as connecting physical library information resources and electronic resources, and also Associating video help with physical information materials and objects. The chapter discussed some components of AI, library services it can be applied to, the benefits of its application, as well as the challenges libraries face in the application of artificial intelligence in the library.

Key Word:- Artificial Intelligence, Libraries

INTRODUCTION

Artificial intelligence (AI) is an aspect of computational science that is concerned with making machines provide answers to complicated and difficult issues in a way that humans do. Human cognitive characteristics are appropriated, modeled, and integrated as algorithms in a manner that computers understand and can process to give an output or result. In its logical approach, Artificial Intelligence is a neural network, which is a network of artificial neurons or nodes that mimics the human biological processes of neurons. It was developed in a system to imitate the structural organization of the neural activities of humans. The neural network collectively generates informed decisions as they pass from one to the other. It models biological

processes and makes best guesses as they process data. Neural networks are hence a certain form of machine learning system, which is an AI system. Artificial intelligence started as a field in the 1950s and its application to libraries started in the 1990s.

COMPONENTS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The two major components of artificial intelligence are machine learning and its subset, deep learning. Ali, et al, (2020) among other scholars identified the following components of artificial intelligence.

Machine Learning

Machine Learning (ML) is an artificial intelligence (AI) technology that enables developed systems to train and gain new knowledge on their own without being specifically taught. Data is fed into a consuming machine-learning system, which controls how the system outputs or reacts. The programming can also be unique; a system for machine learning can be trained to recognize certain models in case studies by exposure to the enormous data collection of the case study. The system may also be created repeatedly when its own output is used as an input or data source, it can be tested and programmed on an ongoing basis. ML systems can even be constructed assets or groups where there is a pair, each in collaboration or in competition, of machine learning systems. (ALA 2019). The focus is on developing computer algorithms that access and use data for training themselves. Machine learning systems can play a pivot function in the provision of library information resources and services. Examples of Machine Learning tools within AI include: Big Data, Text Data Mining (TDM), Robotics, Pattern Recognition, and Chatbots.

Deep Learning

Deep Learning (DL) is a subset of machine learning. The human brain inspires the algorithms and artificial neural networks which then learn from enormous amounts of data. Even with a data set that is unstructured turned, very diversified and interconnected, machines solve complicated issues through deep learning. Natural Language Processing (NLP), Image Processing (IM), and Neural Networking are examples of AI tools used in the context of Deep Learning.

Natural Language Processing

Natural Language Processing (NLP) allows computers to understand the primary language impressions within a question or solution. The design of subject indexing, development of information retrieval systems, and bibliometrics are all examples of how NLP can be used as crucial components in the establishment of a digital library. Researchers noted that text mining techniques are used in efforts to organize vast amounts of language data (i.e., converting unstructured data to structured data) and to define concepts. conveyed in textual form (e.g., sentiment and emotion analysis in speeches and comments).

Pattern Recognition

Pattern recognition automatically recognizes patterns and consistencies in data sets. Pattern recognition is an example of machine learning, as well as other AI technologies such as data mining and knowledge discovery in databases. Pattern recognition is centered on a priori knowledge or statistical information collected from the structures. Patterns to be classified are frequently clusters of observations or measurements that define points in a suitable multi-dimensional space. The usage of the Completely Automated Public Turing Test (CAPTCHA) to check if the user is a robot or a human at the front end interface is an example.

Robotics

Library activities involve plenty of manual work, which can be partially or fully done effectively with the help of robots. Technology has advanced libraries in many ways; Robots are being used instead of humans in various library operations, especially those tasks which are hazardous and time-consuming. A robot is a mechanized device that uses artificial intelligence methods to complete automated activities under direct human guidance, pre-defined instructions, or a set of generic procedures. Robot such as that in the PESIST central library in India, helps with filing, sorting, and replacing books on the shelf. Libraries with a huge collection now use robots for inventory purposes. The 'Robbie' robot developed by the Temasek Polytechnic Library can scan more than 32000 books per day. Another robot from the same library named 'Bobbie', is able to deliver materials like newspapers, magazines, brochures, and can welcome as well as direct guests and students to various locations. Robots are now being programmed to answer Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that library patrons may have. Even though robots have

artificial intelligence, they cannot be as intelligent as humans as they are man-made and need a human touch to get operated.

Chatbots

Chatbots (referred to as intelligent agents, digital assistants, or virtual agents) are software applications which can converse intelligently, whether by speech, text, or possibly by embodied expression. Through their design, they closely emulate human conversation to communicate and interact with people. This was achieved in the artificial intelligence Turing Test. Amazon's Alexa, Google Assistant, and Siri are examples of modern chatbots that are used in everyday life.

LIBRARIES AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Technology has been a part of each and every human work. The presence of artificial intelligence technologies in all spheres of work has made the future promising. The world is becoming increasingly centered on using microelectronic-based technologies for information processing, handling, collection, retrieval, and utilization. Computer systems can now model numerous human competencies, such as word recognition, estimating, comprehending, conversing, recalling, completing shapes and figures comparison, sketching, drawing conclusions, and even active learning with the users. Scholars are building hardware and software that can simulate intelligent human features in order to boost computers' capabilities and power. Artificial intelligence has revolutionized the way libraries think and operate. Libraries in the modern age are technology absorbers from time to time. AI has found numerous applications in libraries, ranging from book filing to book delivery (Afolayan, Ogundokun, Afolabi and Adegun, 2020). The effect of artificial intelligence and its components on libraries in the near future will be enormous; the distinct differences will be different from what is currently attainable in the library. The majority of the library-oriented artificial intelligence applications developed until today or currently under development are basic business aids of the runtime. Potential applications include intelligent systems that help perform different tasks for the library, such as people, budget, collection development, scheduling, etc. These applications include systems for enhancing user services, such as ready references and information storage and retrieval as well as use (Kumar and Sheshadri 2019).

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND RANGANATHAN'S

PRINCIPLE OF LIBRARIANSHIP

The five principles of Ranganathan are fundamental to librarianship. These five principles are the hallmark of the provision of library information resources and services in the library. The following is how we see AI aligning with each of Ranganathan's five principles:

1. Books are for use

Any activity or process in the library promotes the use of library information resources. Artificial intelligent systems increase access to books or other information materials available to users and make the use of these materials easier. The majority of books are now available digitally and users get to use them more than before because they have become more accessible.

2. Every person his book

Libraries serve a wide community of users, irrespective of the type of library. Therefore, the library acquires information resources to meet a wide variety of needs. Every individual has that particular book or information material that meets their information needs at that point in time. It is important that library patrons get hold of the book. Intelligent systems such as the recommender system make this possible. It can recommend resources to acquire in the library to the collection development librarian as well as recommend to the user the best information material that meets the information needs of the user.

3. Every book its reader

Each book has its own audience. Books or other information resources should not be on the shelf and should not be used. No matter how little the population might choose to use such materials, they must have a proper place in the library. AI helps mediate between them and creates a function that not only brings users to the book but also brings the book to the users.

4. Do not waste the time of a user

This is the apex goal that the application of AI in libraries seeks to achieve. Users get busier and impatient. An intelligent system can quickly decipher the needs of a library patron and answers to their queries are provided to the user. Also, an intelligent algorithm makes it possible

to find the fastest route from the user's current location to an information resource location in the library. This smart technology can sense users' and books' locations and offer directions to connect them together.

5. Library is a growing organism

Libraries today are not what they were a decade ago. This is because a library is a dynamic institution and should never have a static outlook. Some growth occurred in the theory and practice of librarian

ship The application of AI to libraries and information centers also brings growth and library patrons are better served.

LIBRARY PROCESSES AND THE APPLICATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI for Cataloguing Application of AI for cataloguing has focused on descriptive cataloguing because it is regarded as rule-based (AACR2). Artificial intelligence techniques can be applied through two approaches for cataloguing of information materials. First, a human-computer interface, in which the cataloging effort is split between the intermediary (human) and the support system (AI); and second, a system with full cataloguing abilities integrated with an electronic publishing system, in which text is generated digitally, it can then be passed through knowledge-based systems, and the cataloging process is done with little or no human intervention. Researchers have faced stern challenges in every endeavor to transform AACR2 into the highly structured guidelines required for coding into the system (Afolayan, et al, 2020). Digital libraries can utilize expert systems in the process of cataloguing and going through digital collections. The use of this digital library based expert system will enable patrons to go through the collection, read through the resources, and download the preferred information through the online system. The application of data mining aids the usage of intelligent library retrieval in cataloguing processes. Also, data mining can be used in online library systems to help establish users' information needs. They help library users' choice of appropriate keyword/expression in information retrieval. Several studies focus on the user-centred structure of recommender systems for library catalogs and also in other library divisions (Mogali, 2014).

AI for Circulation (OPAC)

Artificial intelligence can help with easy retrieval of library materials in the OPAC at the circulation area. NLP can assist in retrieving relevant information from catalogues, databases, indexes and help to reduce language barriers. Users can state their information requirements during the information retrieval process in their natural language, making the search and retrieval process easier and more fruitful. This enables users to state complex retrieval languages. Library users may not recognize the indistinctness of their search and retrieval strategy/method; this can be solved by the use of AI assistive technology in search tools. The usage of NLP for Dialog database searches would facilitate library users to search Dialog databases directly, with little or no assistance from information professionals. A clientele using an electronic catalog in a library may desire to have the catalog understand a particular keyword or a complete sentence. Human librarians are well trained in search & query as well as natural language, which puts them at an advantage and can act as an intermediary between the machine and the library clientele. Some URLs or web addresses are also case sensitive or have specific instructions that must be followed for perfect retrieval of the needed information resources. Library clientele need to become computer literate to take advantage of these new tools in the library (Afolayan, et al, 2020).

AI for Reference Services

Intelligent systems are developed to refer library patrons to information resources likely to answer their reference queries within the library system. More work has been done on systems for reference services than on any other service or section in the library to enable users to obtain information resources and have their reference queries answered in real-time through developed digital reference resources and services in libraries (Chemulwo and Siorei, 2020). The aim of these systems is to guide library patrons to a suitable reference resource, especially when a librarian is not available to help them. Some reference referral systems cover a particular or restricted subject area (highly specialized domain or subject area), while some cover knowledge as a whole (general reference in its coverage). The reference service is a crucial activity of any library and the artificial intelligence tools will function as a complement to the reference librarian. The following are some of the examples of the application of artificial intelligence tools for reference services: AMSWERMEN is an agricultural knowledge-based system that answers reference queries or questions about topics in agriculture. It narrows down the subject of

the query and the type of tool needed using a series of menus. It can function as a front end to external databases or as a consultation system with CD-ROM reference tools (Mogali, 2014).

AI for Collection Development

AI tools can be utilized in selecting vendors or book dealers for library materials. An intelligent system to identify a vendor or book seller can be designed based on previously successful transactions in supplying publications of a specific kind. Such tools would be of particular importance in the procurement of information materials that are less routine, such as conference proceedings, publications in foreign languages or other countries, and certain technical reports, among others. Also, studies have revealed that AI systems have also been developed within the librarianship profession to assist in the process of selection. Such systems include: The Monograph election Advisor, which is an innovative effort in applying this emergent technology to building library information resources. Specifically, the system modeled the item-by-item decision task that a subject bibliographer carries out in selecting monographic resources. The system's knowledge base must be sufficient and the interface features must be sufficiently simple to ensure that the library can obtain the desired results from the AI system.

AI for Indexing

Indexing of library resources, especially periodicals, is another area where AI tools are being designed. The basis for document retrieval is indexing. The purpose of indexing is to enhance precision ensuring that the fraction of the retrieved material is appropriate); and recall (the percentage of appropriate materials retrieved). The keywords which have been determined by an expert (indexer) or a body as being fundamental to human thought on a specific topic will be programmed into the electronic database in away that will generate the citation on the computer screen for an article or material whenever a searcher inputs these keywords in the proper sequence into the system. Indexing a periodical article entails identifying key components, translating them into verbal descriptions, and choosing and allocating controlled vocabulary terminologies that are conceptually equal to the verbal descriptions. The purpose of automating the cognitive features of indexing is to enhance consistency and indexing quality. The indexing systems can automatically select the proper favorite terms to allocate the

appropriate subdivisions based on the information provided by the indexer (Afolayan, et al, 2020).

BENEFITS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE APPLICATION IN LIBRARIES

In order to benefit from the application of AI in libraries, library staff need to have a shift in their view of AI. Instead of perceiving AI as a disruptive tool that would displace library professionals and traditional library practices, librarians and management can learn from how AI is perceived in other professions in which it is being applied. AI should be seen as a way to tackle problems in the actual world.

AI Improves Operational Effectiveness and Efficiency

Libraries can determine and boost the organizational effectiveness and efficiency of library services by enhancing the provision of information resources and service efficacy while decreasing operating costs through automation, digital asset management, and optimized research data governance. Collection analysis, visualization, conservation and preservation, and reducing the cost of providing library services can be achieved with the development of artificial intelligence tools in library processes and services. Implementing intelligent systems for the provision of library information resources and services can help develop innovation or creativity that further improves operational effectiveness and efficiency.

CHALLENGES OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE APPLICATION IN LIBRARIES

Artificial Intelligence is still hampered by several technological, social and economic issues. Despite librarians and library administrators' increased recognition of the importance of integrating new technologies, there are still significant internal reservations prohibiting artificial intelligence techniques from entering the information management sector. These challenges include but are not limited to the following:

Financial Uncertainty

Globally, whenever public funds and revenue dwindle and socio-economic or political changes are happening, cultural organizations and institutions such as libraries frequently suffer reductions in their allocations. Libraries can neither show value for financing nor demonstrate

cost-effective practices, especially not without incorporating technological advancements to improve their physical facilities, introduce innovative services, as well as enhance the user experience for library users. All these require additional funding. The absence of appropriate information and knowledge concerning the operational benefits and effective cost-savings of the application of artificial intelligence techniques can offer to libraries makes it challenging for libraries and library personnel to establish the value of incorporating these emerging technologies into library systems. Thus, today's libraries often swim in financial constraints and are unable to show value without major funding investment. Also, the majority of AI systems are proprietary software. Research into AI-based innovations is not yet a popular trend in libraries, and broader debate and clarification among experts is still required.

Openness to Change

Throughout the world, most librarians are scared that AI will take over the work environment and render them jobless. Humans are notoriously resistant to change in operational processes and the introduction of advanced technologies. Staff in libraries frequently exhibit obstinance, even defensiveness, when it comes to technological transition. This might be due to a variety of beliefs, technophobia, or even fear of losing their jobs.

Technical Knowhow and Slow Learning Curves among Library Staff

More and more libraries are expressing interest in implementing highly innovative processes and technological applications. However, the majorities of libraries do not understand or know how the tools function and the adoption rates remain stiff among library personnel. The use of AI tools and technologies is being hampered by skill gaps in digital literacy skills. Users' Privacy When fed huge amounts of data; artificial intelligence eventually begins to recognize specific data sets through machine learning. Personal information has become a product that can be abused for nefarious activities. Data privacy, which has always been a valuable asset to libraries, may be jeopardized by AI, which is even more so in today's technological environment. Librarians must protect users' privacy by allowing them to communicate with AI systems in an anonymous manner. Also, because inquiries and search queries are recorded, this information can be used against individuals. Requesting and obtaining essays from Artificial Intelligence systems poses a risk, as private information may be gathered through machine learning.

Linguistic Capabilities Chatbots possess limited memory, and their processing capacity does not support a large vocabulary or the ability to handle a variety of conversational styles. Developers must predict the forms of interaction and build appropriate replies to them, which is a tough challenge for any multilingual nation because dialects vary by region, and programmed interactional styles may not be appropriate for all types of conversations.

Understanding of Users' Emotions

Human creativity and empathy would be played down because of AI's efficiency, resulting in a future wherein the library's connectedness to its community and valuable human attributes would be undermined and scarce. Human beings are superior to machines because they have emotions and can feel each other's emotions. Empathy is a key characteristic of any library staff; it makes the provision of information resources and services better and leads to satisfaction of the users' information needs. AI should not be allowed to take values away on the basis of information access and exchange of that information, but should be engaged to do things, to aid and process functions differently.

Other challenges encountered include bias, which occurs when algorithms are designed to function based on developer bias, or commercial organizations, which can lead to disparities in librarianship. As a result, the transparency and accountability of artificial intelligence systems are being called into question. Also, the quality level or intelligence of a given artificial intelligence system is defined by two key aspects: logical algorithms, which are technical in nature, and corpus capacity, which is data-related. With technical developments occurring at such a rapid speed, more and more complex algorithms are being developed and optimized. To keep up, an increasing number of crawlers would be needed to acquire the internet and enhance its intelligence.

CONCLUSION

The application of Artificial Intelligence is a developing technology in the field of librarianship. Artificial Intelligence has promising potential for ease and improved provision, processing, use, as well as security of information materials in the library. Researchers in LIS should collaborate with experts in AI to solve teaching and research problems related to the application of AI in libraries. This will open up opportunities in librarianship and the provision

of information resources and services to library patrons will be effective and efficient. Despite artificial intelligence being applied in various aspects of the library, most of its applications are still in the theoretical stage, which is more or less limited and cannot be really implemented. This is due to the fact that library AI hardware equipment and research investment is insufficient, big data collection and data mining are facing difficulties, library artificial intelligence talent teams are in short supply, and artificial intelligence thinking in the library business is lacking, especially in the Global South countries like Nigeria. Librarians should not be afraid of these intelligent systems taking over their jobs, but should be ready to improve their knowledge to be able to engage these systems and improve their productivity.

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The Essential Role of Libraries in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

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Abstract

In 2015, the international community embarked on a landmark journey with the adoption of the 2015 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At its core are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a comprehensive framework embraced by 193 countries as an "urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership". This agenda serves as a "shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future," moving beyond previous development models to integrate economic, social, and environmental dimensions into a unified vision. The SDGs address a wide spectrum of complex global challenges, from ending poverty in all its forms (SDG 1) and achieving zero hunger (SDG 2) to reducing inequality (SDG 10) and taking urgent action to combat climate change (SDG 13). Central to this entire endeavour is the foundational principle to "leave no one behind," an ethos that demands inclusive progress that reaches the most vulnerable populations first.² This commitment to universal inclusion sets the stage for the vital contributions of community-based institutions.

The Evolving Library: From Repository to Dynamic Community Hub

Parallel to the formulation of this global agenda, libraries have undergone a profound transformation. The traditional image of a library as a "quiet sanctuary filled with books" has given way to a new reality: the library as a "dynamic community centre" essential for local development. This evolution, driven by changing societal needs and technological advancements, has repositioned libraries as multifaceted institutions with a mission that extends far beyond the circulation of materials.

The modern library serves several critical functions simultaneously. It is an **educational foundation**, providing lifelong learning opportunities that range from early literacy programs for children to digital skills training and continuing education for adults. It acts as a vital **community hub**, a welcoming and inclusive "third place" that is neither home nor work, where individuals can connect, engage, and build social capital.⁵ Furthermore, libraries have become powerful **economic enablers**, supporting workforce development by offering job search resources and fostering entrepreneurship with access to technology and business planning tools. As **digital gateways**, they are on the front lines of bridging the digital divide, providing free access to computers, high-speed internet, and the digital literacy training necessary to navigate an increasingly online world.⁹ Finally, they are **cultural and civic platforms**, preserving local history, hosting cultural events, and facilitating public discourse on critical community issues.

The missions of the modern library and the 2015 Agenda did not develop in response to one another, but rather in parallel. The library's transformation into a community-centric institution was a decades-long process driven by local needs, a mission that was already deeply embedded well before the SDGs were formalized in 2015. This parallel evolution means that libraries are not merely *adapting* to support the SDGs; they are *pre-configured* to be one of the

most effective local implementation partners for the global goals. Their existing infrastructure, trusted status within communities, and established programs represent a ready-made, proven model for the kind of grassroots development the 200 Agenda seeks to foster. For policymakers, this alignment presents a powerful opportunity: investing in libraries is not about creating a new SDG program from scratch, but about scaling up a successful, existing model of community empowerment.

The Global Mandate for Libraries in Development

The alignment between libraries and the SDGs is not merely a theoretical observation; it is formally recognized at the highest levels of international policy. Through sustained advocacy led by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), in partnership with organizations like UNESCO, the library field successfully secured a direct role within the 200 Agenda. The most significant achievement of this effort was the inclusion of **Target 6.0**, which calls on all nations to "Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements".

This target, housed within SDG 6 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), explicitly embeds a core function of all libraries into the global development framework. Its inclusion is a landmark for the library profession because it provides a direct, measurable link between the daily work of libraries and a globally agreed-upon development goal. This gives libraries a powerful tool to articulate their value and demonstrate their relevance to governments, moving their contributions from the anecdotal to the strategic.⁶

The Library Manifesto in the SDG Era

The principles that have long guided the library profession, such as those articulated in the IFLA-UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, resonate deeply with the ethos of the SDGs.² Core library values—including universal and equitable access to information, the promotion of intellectual freedom, unwavering support for literacy, and a commitment to social inclusion—are the practical embodiment of the 200 Agenda's promise to "leave no one behind".² Through the development of resources like advocacy toolkits and the issuance of formal declarations, IFLA has mobilized the global library field to understand and embrace its role as an active partner in development. This global effort encourages libraries to see themselves not as passive service providers but as essential engines for achieving sustainable progress.

This high-level mandate provides libraries with what can be described as a "language of legitimacy." Because national governments have formally committed to achieving the SDGs, local libraries can now frame their needs and initiatives within this official context. When a rural library advocates for funding to upgrade its internet connection, for example, it is no longer just a local operational request. By referencing Target 6.0 and using the frameworks provided by IFLA, that request becomes a proposal to help the nation fulfil its international commitments. This strategic reframing elevates the conversation from a discussion of costs to a partnership in achieving shared, high-level goals, transforming the dynamic between libraries and their funders.

Libraries as Engines of Sustainable Development

The contributions of libraries are not confined to a single goal but extend across the entire 200 Agenda. Their unique position as trusted, accessible community institutions allows them to

drive progress on the interconnected pillars of human development, economic prosperity, and peaceful societies.

Fostering Human Potential and Equity (People)

Libraries are fundamental to human development, directly advancing goals centred on education and equality.

- **Driving SDG (Quality Education):** As cornerstones of lifelong learning, libraries are indispensable partners in achieving quality education for all. They support formal education by providing students with homework assistance, access to academic databases, and quiet study spaces. However, their most unique contribution lies in informal and non-formal learning. Libraries run early literacy programs that prepare young children for school, offer literacy classes for adults who may have been left behind, and deliver digital literacy training that equips people of all ages with the skills essential for the modern world.⁵ In doing so, they create inclusive learning environments for those who have "fallen through the cracks of the educational system," making education truly accessible to everyone.²
- **Advancing SDG 0 (Reduced Inequalities):** By their very nature, libraries are equitable institutions. They provide free and equal access to information, technology, and opportunity without discrimination, directly challenging the inequalities that persist in society.² They are a primary force in reducing the digital divide, often providing the only free public access to computers and the internet in underserved rural and urban areas. Furthermore, libraries actively promote social inclusion by creating targeted programs and services for marginalized groups, including immigrants, refugees, seniors, people with disabilities, and ethnic minorities, helping them participate more fully in the social and economic life of their communities.

Powering Inclusive Economic Growth (Prosperity)

Libraries serve as powerful catalysts for local economic development, providing the tools and skills necessary for individuals and communities to thrive.

- **Fuelling SDG (Decent Work and Economic Growth):** Libraries are key contributors to creating a skilled workforce and fostering economic opportunity. They provide critical resources for job seekers, such as free computer and internet access for online applications, resume-building workshops, and job-search assistance.⁵ The impact is tangible; in the European Union, for instance, millions of adults used public library computers for employment-related activities in a single year, with over a quarter of a million securing jobs as a direct result. Libraries also act as incubators for entrepreneurship and small businesses, offering access to market research databases, business planning tools, and neutral spaces for networking and meetings. Through technology training, makerspaces, and language classes, they enhance the skills of the local workforce, contributing to sustained and inclusive economic growth.

Building Just and Inclusive Societies (Peace)

Beyond providing access to information, libraries are part of the essential infrastructure that underpins peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

- **Realizing SDG 6 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions):** The role of libraries in achieving SDG 6 extends far beyond Target 6.0. By fostering an informed and engaged citizenry, they strengthen democratic institutions from the ground up. Libraries provide public access to legal information and government data, empowering people to understand their rights, navigate justice systems, and hold institutions accountable.⁵ As trusted, politically neutral spaces, they are ideal venues for civic life, hosting town hall meetings, voter registration drives, and community dialogues on contentious issues. In this capacity, libraries serve as a vital platform for democratic participation and the building of strong, transparent institutions.

The impact of library services demonstrates a powerful multiplier effect across the SDGs. A single library initiative often addresses multiple development goals simultaneously. For example, a program providing ICT training to female farmers, such as that offered by the National Library of Uganda, has cascading benefits. It directly advances **SDG 4** by teaching new skills. It promotes **SDG 5** by empowering women. It contributes to **SDG 8** by enabling access to market prices and weather forecasts, improving economic outcomes. And it helps achieve **SDG 10** by reducing the information and opportunity gap for a marginalized group. This pattern reveals that investments in libraries are not merely additive; they are synergistic. A single investment can produce positive outcomes across the social, economic, and civic dimensions of the 200 Agenda, positioning libraries as a uniquely efficient and high-impact partner for sustainable development.

The Future of Libraries in Sustainable Development

To unlock the full potential of libraries in the final decade of the 200 Agenda and beyond, a strategic and collaborative approach is essential. The future of libraries in sustainable development hinges on strengthening their institutional ecosystem through partnerships, policy integration, and sustained advocacy.

The Role of Partnerships, Policy, and Advocacy

The path forward requires moving beyond isolated efforts toward building robust networks. Strategic partnerships—with government agencies at all levels, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and local businesses—are critical for amplifying impact, sharing resources, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of library programs.² Advocacy must be continuous, data-driven, and framed in the language of policymakers, using the SDG framework to clearly communicate how library services contribute to national development priorities.⁶ A key objective for the library sector must be formal inclusion in National Development Plans and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), the official progress reports submitted to the UN. Such inclusion formalizes the library's role as a development partner and can unlock crucial political and financial support.⁶

Libraries in the Post-200 Agenda

As global challenges like climate change, inequality, and disinformation become increasingly complex, the need for trusted, local, human-centric institutions will only grow. Libraries are uniquely positioned to meet this need. They are evolving from being simple service providers to becoming "ecosystem weavers"—the central hubs that connect people to information, government services, economic opportunities, and each other. In doing so, they

build social capital and community resilience, which are the foundational bedrock upon which all sustainable development efforts must be built.

Looking toward the post-200 development agenda, it is clear that top-down solutions alone are insufficient. Lasting progress requires empowered, informed, and engaged communities. The global network of public, academic, school, and national libraries represents one of the most strategic, cost-effective, and high-return investments a society can make in its own future. By supporting these essential institutions, we invest in the fabric of our communities and build a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous world for all.⁰

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ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR VIKSIT BHARAT@2047

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ABSTRACT

Viksit Bharat@2047 envisions India as an equitable, innovative, and sustainable nation by the centenary of independence. Libraries—public, academic, school, and special—are strategic institutions to translate this vision into everyday capabilities: inclusive access to information, digital and data literacy, research acceleration, cultural preservation, and resilient communities. This article outlines why libraries are mission-critical to sustainable development, maps their contributions to key SDGs, and proposes a practical roadmap—policies, programs, partnerships, technology, and metrics—to help Indian libraries become high-impact engines of social and economic progress by 2047 (NITI Aayog, 2024, 2025; PMO, 2025; United Nations General Assembly, 2015).

Keywords: *VIKSIT BHARAT@ 2047 , Libraries, Sustainable Development, SDGs, Open Science, Digital Public Infrastructure, Information Literacy and Cultural Heritage.*

1) INTRODUCTION: LIBRARIES AS DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Development is more than roads and power—it is also knowledge infrastructure. Libraries connect people to ideas, skills, and evidence required to solve problems across health, employment, entrepreneurship, climate adaptation, and civic participation (IFLA & UNESCO, 2022; UNESCO, 2020). Two pillars of sustainable development align closely with library strengths: (a) capability expansion via reading, digital, data, and media literacies, and (b) institutional trust through neutral spaces that curate credible sources, counter misinformation, preserve memory, and promote dialogue (United Nations General Assembly, 2015).

By 2047, India will need citizens who can navigate AI-enabled workplaces, communities that can respond to climate risks, and researchers who translate knowledge into innovation—outcomes libraries can deliver at scale when integrated with national strategies for Viksit Bharat@2047 (NITI Aayog, 2024, 2025; MyGov, 2023).

2) POLICY CONTEXT AND NATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

India already has the policy scaffolding and digital rails to elevate libraries:

- **Education & Skills:** NEP-2020 emphasizes library-centric learning and research readiness across school and higher education (Ministry of Education, 2020).
- **Digital Platforms:** NDLI, SWAYAM/SWAYAM-Plus, and DIKSHA democratize quality content and credentials (IIT Kharagpur; Ministry of Education; NCERT—CIET).

- **Research Access:** Consortia like e-ShodhSindhu reduce cost barriers for journals, databases, and e-books (INFLIBNET).
- **Library Modernization:** The National Mission on Libraries and related initiatives can upgrade infrastructure, human resources, and networks (RRRLF; Press Information Bureau, 2019, 2022).
- **Global Alignment:** The IFLA-UNESCO Public Library Manifesto and SDG toolkits link library services with measurable development outcomes (IFLA & UNESCO, 2022; IFLA, 2025).

The task now is to integrate these assets into a coherent, outcome-driven library strategy that advances sustainable development under Viksit Bharat@2047 (NITI Aayog, 2025).

3) **HOW LIBRARIES ADVANCE THE SDGS (INDIA LENS)**

SDG 4 — Quality Education & Lifelong Learning

Libraries curate multilingual learning pathways from school to adult education and run community classes on digital, data, and AI literacy using open courses, with assistive technologies and accessible formats for learners with disabilities (Ministry of Education, 2020; UNESCO, 2020; Ministry of Education; NCERT—CIET; IIT Kharagpur).

SDG 8 — Decent Work & Economic Growth

Libraries host job-readiness labs (résumé clinics, interview practice), entrepreneurship toolkits, MSME databases, and short courses with micro-credentials (SWAYAM/SWAYAM-Plus) aligned to local labor markets (Ministry of Education).

SDG 9 — Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure

Academic and research libraries accelerate innovation through consortia e-resources, literature mapping, interlibrary requests, and Research Data Management services; they also facilitate IP awareness and prior-art searches in partnership with incubators (INFLIBNET; IFLA, 2025).

SDG 10 — Reduced Inequalities

Mobile libraries, neighborhood kiosks, and “digital navigators” extend services to rural, tribal, and urban-poor communities, helping first-generation users access e-governance schemes, scholarships, and health information (IFLA & UNESCO, 2022; MyGov, 2023).

SDG 11 — Sustainable Cities & Communities

Libraries preserve local history, folk literature, and oral traditions through digitization and host maker-spaces and repair cafés; “green libraries” focus on energy efficiency, solar rooftops, and circular procurement (Press Information Bureau, 2019, 2022; UNESCO, 2020).

SDG 13 — Climate Action

Climate literacy clubs curate datasets and guides for local risks (heat, floods, water), while citizen-science projects engage schools and communities (UNESCO, 2020).

SDG 16 — Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

Libraries provide neutral spaces for civic learning, promote media-information literacy, and guide citizens to credible government information and grievance-redress systems, strengthening institutional trust (IFLA & UNESCO, 2022; United Nations General Assembly, 2015).

SDG 17 — Partnerships for the Goals

Library impact scales through multi-stakeholder networks—municipalities, universities, NGOs, startups, CSR partners, and state agencies—aligned with district and state development strategies (NITI Aayog, 2024, 2025; RRRLF).

4) THE PHYGITAL LIBRARY: SPACES + DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

A high-impact library is both a **place** and a **platform**. By 2030, priority features include unified discovery across print/e-resources/OER (federated with NDLI), single sign-on for borrowing and remote access, low-bandwidth resilience via local caching, privacy-respecting analytics, and accessibility by default (IIT Kharagpur; Ministry of Education, 2020; IFLA & UNESCO, 2022). Given India's scale, adopting privacy-by-design practices and clear user notices is prudent when leveraging ed-tech platforms (Newman, 2023).

5) PROGRAM ARCHETYPES LIBRARIES CAN LAUNCH NOW

1. **NDLI Club-Plus:** Reading challenges, research sprints, and “explain-like-I’m-15” science talks connected to curricula (IIT Kharagpur).
2. **Career & Skills Studio:** Weekly clinics for job search, coding, data skills, communication, and financial literacy using open courses and local mentors (Ministry of Education).
3. **Open Science Desk:** Support for literature reviews, data management plans, reproducible workflows, preprints, and metrics literacy (INFLIBNET; IFLA, 2025).
4. **Civic Help Hub:** Orientation to public schemes, digital payments safety, grievance portals, and election-year media-literacy sessions (IFLA & UNESCO, 2022).
5. **Green Library Lab:** Repair workshops, seed libraries, water harvesting demos, e-waste collection, and neighborhood climate dashboards (UNESCO, 2020).
6. **Inclusive Access Van:** A mobile mini-library with Wi-Fi, tablets, and assistive tech to serve schools, PHCs, and community centers on rotation (RRRLF).

6) CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LIBRARIANS

Delivering these programs requires CPD in instruction and facilitation, technology stewardship (repositories, metadata, APIs), research support (systematic searching, RDM), community engagement, and ethics/privacy (IFLA, 2025; IFLA & UNESCO, 2022). State-level

academies and micro-credentials can help librarians upskill without leaving their posts (Ministry of Education, 2020).

7) **GOVERNANCE, FINANCE, AND PARTNERSHIPS**

Governance: District-level library councils can link public, school, and college libraries to share resources and plan jointly with transparent policies on collections, donations, data use, and content challenges (RRRLF; IFLA & UNESCO, 2022).

Finance: Blend state/ULB budgets, RRRLF/NML schemes, HEI allocations, CSR, alumni/endowments, and consortial savings; tie budgets to outcomes like literacy hours, certifications, research support, outreach, and inclusion metrics (Press Information Bureau, 2019, 2022; INFLIBNET).

Partnerships: Coordinate with Education Departments, industry/startups, civil society (PwD, elderly, women, migrants), and tech providers for accessibility tooling and offline kits (NITI Aayog, 2025; UNESCO, 2020).

8) **IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP (2025–2047)**

Phase I: 2025–2030 — Foundations and Equity

Minimum service guarantees (hours, Wi-Fi, assistive tech), NDLI-federated discovery, inclusion-first outreach (mobile libraries/kiosks), program starter kits (literacy bootcamps, career clinics, climate clubs), and baseline metrics (IIT Kharagpur; Ministry of Education, 2020).

Phase II: 2030–2037 — Scale and Specialization

Specialist desks (open science, MSME market info, health info), interoperability with campus systems, green retrofits (solar, LED, rainwater), and regional consortia for pooled licensing and logistics (INFLIBNET.; Press Information Bureau, 2019, 2022).

Phase III: 2037–2047 — Transformation and Leadership

AI-assisted multilingual search and accessibility (with human oversight), annual SDG-linked impact reports, international exchanges, and libraries as default information hubs during disasters with pre-agreed SOPs (IFLA, 2025; UNESCO, 2020; NITI Aayog, 2025).

9) **MEASURING WHAT MATTERS: AN SDG-LINKED SCORECARD**

Track access and use (patron sessions, language and accessibility mix), learning and skills (instruction hours, course completions, employment outcomes), research and innovation (consultations, data plans, repository deposits), inclusion and community (outreach coverage, PwD usage, civic sessions), and climate and green operations (energy intensity, renewables share, e-waste diverted, climate literacy programs) (IFLA, 2025; UNESCO, 2020; United Nations General Assembly, 2015).

10) RISKS AND MITIGATIONS

- **Digital Divide:** Pair online services with offline packs; invest in digital navigators; design for low bandwidth (Ministry of Education, 2020; IIT Kharagpur).
- **Privacy & Security:** Collect minimal data; publish privacy policies; audit vendors; train staff/users (Newman, 2023).
- **Sustainable Funding:** Blend sources; show ROI with outcomes; leverage consortia and OER to cut costs (INFLIBNET; RRRLF).
- **Capacity Gaps:** Institutionalize CPD; create regional centers of excellence; promote peer mentoring (IFLA, 2025).
- **Misinformation & Polarization:** Maintain neutrality; teach media-information literacy; enforce clear content challenge procedures (IFLA & UNESCO, 2022).

11) CONCLUSION

Viksit Bharat@2047 calls for a society where opportunity matches capability and growth matches inclusion and sustainability. Libraries sit at the heart of this equation. If India commits to mission-mode library modernization—interoperable digital platforms, inclusive programs, research support, green operations, strong partnerships, and rigorous impact measurement—libraries will not merely support development; they will **drive** it (NITI Aayog, 2024, 2025; IFLA & UNESCO, 2022; UNESCO, 2020).

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ROLE OF INFORMATION LITERACY AND INFORMATION ACCESS FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Inclusive development emphasizes equitable growth that ensures no individual or community is left behind in the progress of society. In today's knowledge-driven era, information literacy and access to information serve as crucial enablers of empowerment, education, and socio-economic development. This paper examines the role of information literacy and equitable access to information in fostering inclusive development. It explores the concepts of information literacy, digital divide, and information access, highlighting their relevance in education, governance, healthcare, and marginalized communities.

The study further investigates challenges such as technological barriers, lack of infrastructure, language diversity, and policy gaps that hinder information inclusion. Through case studies of initiatives such as India's National Digital Library, community information centers, and global movements like UNESCO's Information for All Programme (IFAP), the paper demonstrates practical pathways toward inclusion. The research concludes that information literacy and access are not mere academic pursuits but catalysts for sustainable and inclusive socio-economic transformation.

Keywords: *Information Literacy, Information Access, Inclusive Development, Digital Divide, Knowledge Economy, ICT, Libraries, Social Inclusion*

1. INTRODUCTION

The 21st century is characterized as an "Information Age," where the ability to access, evaluate, and use information effectively determines an individual's capacity to participate in social, economic, and cultural activities. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), stress the role of information access in achieving inclusivity (United Nations, 2015).

Information literacy—defined by the American Library Association (ALA) as the ability to recognize when information is needed and to locate, evaluate, and use the needed information effectively—has emerged as a foundational skill for lifelong learning (ALA, 1989). Simultaneously, equitable access to information ensures that all individuals, regardless of socio-economic background, gender, or geography, benefit from knowledge resources.

This paper explores how information literacy and information access contribute to inclusive development by bridging knowledge gaps, empowering marginalized communities, and strengthening democratic participation.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study aims to:

- ❖ Analyze the role of information literacy in empowering individuals and communities.
- ❖ Explore the relationship between information access and inclusive socio-economic development.
- ❖ Identify challenges to universal information access.
- ❖ Highlight case studies and best practices at national and international levels.
- ❖ Recommend strategies for strengthening inclusive information ecosystems.

3. METHODOLOGY

The study is based on qualitative research methods, including:

- **Literature Review:** Scholarly articles, reports from UNESCO, IFLA, and UNDP, and government policies.
- **Case Studies:** Analysis of successful programs in India and other countries.
- **Analytical Approach:** Thematic analysis linking information literacy with inclusivity, equity, and development outcomes.

4. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

4.1 Information Literacy

Information literacy extends beyond digital skills. It integrates critical thinking, ethical use of information, and the ability to adapt to dynamic knowledge systems. It is essential for academic success, employability, and informed citizenship (Lau, 2006).

4.2 Information Access

Access refers to the availability, affordability, and usability of information. It requires infrastructure (internet, libraries, ICT tools), content (books, e-resources, local language materials), and supportive policies (IFLA, 2016).

4.3 Inclusive Development

Inclusive development ensures equitable distribution of opportunities and benefits of growth. It prioritizes marginalized groups—rural communities, women, differently-abled persons, and minorities—by providing access to knowledge resources (World Bank, 2013).

5. ROLE OF INFORMATION LITERACY IN INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

1. Educational Empowerment

- Information literacy equips students with research and analytical skills.
- In rural schools, training in ICT and digital libraries enhances quality education (Julien & Williamson, 2011).

2. Employment and Skill Development

- Job seekers benefit from online portals, e-learning platforms, and vocational training modules.
- Lifelong learning through MOOCs and open educational resources (OERs) widens opportunities (Yoon & Schultz, 2017).

3. Health Literacy

- Access to health information (WHO portals, government health schemes) improves decision-making in preventive care.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, information literacy helped communities filter fake news from authentic health guidelines (Cinelli et al., 2020).

4. Social Inclusion and Gender Equality

- Women's empowerment programs use digital literacy to enhance participation in self-help groups and entrepreneurship (UNESCO, 2013).
- Marginalized groups use community information centers to access welfare schemes.

5. Democratic Participation

- Information-literate citizens engage better with e-governance portals, right-to-information mechanisms, and digital grievance redressal systems (Bertot et al., 2010).
- Promotes transparency and accountability in governance.

6. INFORMATION ACCESS AS A DRIVER OF INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

1. Bridging the Digital Divide

- Rural internet connectivity programs (e.g., BharatNet in India) expand access to e-services (Mehta & Kumar, 2020).
- Libraries act as community information hubs.

2. Knowledge for All

- Public libraries, national digital repositories, and OERs ensure equal opportunity in learning (IFLA, 2016).
- Projects like National Digital Library of India (NDLI) offer millions of free resources (Ministry of Education, 2022).

3. Inclusive Economic Growth

- Farmers use digital platforms (e-NAM, Kisan Call Centers) to access agricultural market information (Singh, 2017).
- Small entrepreneurs leverage e-commerce and government startup portals.

4. Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

- Access to multilingual resources preserves indigenous knowledge and local traditions.
- Translation services and regional e-content ensure wider reach (UNESCO, 2021).

7. CASE STUDIES AND BEST PRACTICES

7.1 India: National Digital Library of India (NDLI)

A repository of over 70 million digital resources, NDLI provides free access to students, teachers, and researchers across disciplines. It supports inclusivity by offering content in multiple languages (Ministry of Education, 2022).

7.2 UNESCO's Information for All Programme (IFAP)

A global initiative promoting universal access to information for development, IFAP emphasizes ICT applications, information literacy, and ethical information use (UNESCO, 2005).

7.3 Community Information Centers in Rural India

Run by NGOs and government bodies, these centers provide access to e-governance services, online education, and healthcare information, particularly benefiting women and underprivileged groups (Babu & Gopalaswamy, 2009).

7.4 Kerala's Akshaya Project

A state-level initiative offering digital literacy and e-services, helping rural communities adopt ICT tools for education, health, and agriculture (Kumar & Sankar, 2012).

8. CHALLENGES IN INFORMATION LITERACY AND ACCESS

1. **Technological Barriers** – Limited internet penetration, outdated ICT infrastructure.
2. **Socio-Economic Gaps** – Affordability issues, urban-rural disparity.
3. **Language Barriers** – Lack of localized and multilingual content.
4. **Policy and Governance Issues** – Inconsistent implementation of digital inclusion policies.
5. **Misinformation and Fake News** – Threat to informed decision-making.
6. **Skill Deficit** – Inadequate training for educators and librarians in digital pedagogy.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Strengthening Libraries as Information Hubs** – Equip libraries with ICT tools, e-resources, and training facilities.
2. **Inclusive ICT Policies** – Government initiatives must prioritize rural and marginalized communities.
3. **Integration into Curriculum** – Information literacy should be part of school, college, and university curricula.

4. **Capacity Building** – Train librarians, teachers, and community leaders in information literacy.
5. **Public-Private Partnerships** – Collaborations for affordable internet, e-learning platforms, and skill development.
6. **Awareness Programs** – Campaigns against misinformation and promoting ethical use of information.
7. **Accessible Formats** – Resources for differently-abled persons (Braille, audiobooks, screen readers).

10. CONCLUSION

Information literacy and information access are no longer optional skills but essential rights in a knowledge-based society. For inclusive development, it is imperative to bridge the digital divide, enhance literacy levels, and ensure that every individual—whether in urban or rural areas—has equal opportunities to access and use information. Libraries, educational institutions, policymakers, and ICT platforms play a collaborative role in achieving this vision.

By integrating information literacy into education, strengthening public libraries, expanding digital infrastructure, and adopting inclusive ICT policies, societies can empower individuals to participate fully in social, economic, and democratic life. Ultimately, information access and literacy are not just tools for individual empowerment but catalysts for national development and global equity.

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ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE IN TODAY'S INFORMATION AGE

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ABSTRACT

In the era of rapid technological advancement and globalization, preserving cultural heritage has become both an opportunity and a challenge. Libraries, as repositories of human knowledge and culture, play a pivotal role in safeguarding tangible and intangible heritage. From manuscripts and rare books to oral traditions, indigenous knowledge, and digital archives, libraries bridge the past with the present by preserving cultural memory for future generations. This paper explores the evolving role of libraries in preserving cultural heritage within today's information age. It highlights the importance of digitization, institutional repositories, metadata standards, open access platforms, and community participation in knowledge preservation. Case studies from India and abroad, including the National Digital Library of India (NDLI), Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), and UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme, are discussed to demonstrate best practices. The study concludes by emphasizing the need for policy support, sustainable funding, capacity building, and integration of advanced ICT tools to strengthen the cultural preservation mission of libraries in the 21st century.

Keywords: *Libraries, Cultural Heritage, Digital Preservation, Information Age, Knowledge Management, Institutional Repositories, Intangible Heritage*

1. INTRODUCTION

Cultural heritage—encompassing books, manuscripts, oral traditions, folklore, music, art, and indigenous knowledge—represents the identity and collective memory of societies. Preserving it is not merely about archiving the past but about ensuring continuity of knowledge, traditions, and creativity for future generations (Feather, 2006).

In the information age, characterized by digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and the internet, libraries are no longer confined to being custodians of print materials. Instead, they are dynamic institutions actively engaged in digitization, access provision, and heritage dissemination (IFLA, 2016).

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) emphasizes the significance of safeguarding both tangible heritage (books, manuscripts, photographs) and intangible heritage (oral histories, folklore, rituals, traditional knowledge)

(UNESCO, 2015). Libraries, along with archives and museums, form a vital triad of cultural heritage institutions.

This paper examines how libraries, through innovative use of ICT, digital repositories, community outreach, and global collaborations, preserve cultural heritage in today's information-driven environment.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives are:

- ❖ To understand the concept and importance of cultural heritage preservation.
- ❖ To examine the changing role of libraries in the information age.
- ❖ To analyze tools, techniques, and strategies for digital preservation.
- ❖ To highlight challenges faced by libraries in heritage preservation.
- ❖ To suggest recommendations for sustainable cultural heritage initiatives.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

Scholars have highlighted the transformative role of libraries in cultural preservation. Feather (2006) argues that libraries act as cultural institutions that maintain continuity between past and present. Smith (2011) emphasizes that digitization projects not only preserve fragile materials but also democratize access to heritage.

According to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA, 2016), libraries contribute significantly to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by preserving cultural identity and promoting inclusive access. In India, Chatterjee (2018) highlights the growing importance of digital repositories such as Shodhganga and NDLI in preserving research and cultural works.

Thus, literature suggests that while libraries face challenges such as digital obsolescence and funding shortages, they remain central to cultural preservation in the 21st century.

4. LIBRARIES AS GUARDIANS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

4.1 Tangible Cultural Heritage

Libraries preserve manuscripts, rare books, maps, and newspapers using conservation techniques such as deacidification, microfilming, and digitization (Harvey, 2003). Rare collections and special archives in national and university libraries play a critical role in sustaining tangible heritage.

4.2 Intangible Cultural Heritage

Libraries document oral histories, folk tales, music, and indigenous traditions. Community archives and oral history projects provide platforms to record and disseminate cultural practices (UNESCO, 2003).

4.3 Digital Heritage

Libraries are central to digital heritage through the creation of online archives of books, photographs, films, and government records (Deegan & Tanner, 2006). Examples include Europeana and the DPLA, which aggregate millions of cultural artifacts for global access.

4.4 Libraries as Community Spaces

Beyond collections, libraries serve as cultural centers, hosting exhibitions, heritage weeks, and workshops. They promote cultural literacy and awareness, particularly among younger generations (IFLA, 2016).

5. TOOLS AND STRATEGIES FOR PRESERVATION IN THE INFORMATION AGE

1. **Digitization Projects** – High-resolution scanning and OCR make fragile manuscripts searchable and accessible (Deegan & Tanner, 2006).
2. **Metadata Standards** – MARC 21, Dublin Core, and METS standards ensure description and interoperability (Caplan, 2003).
3. **Institutional Repositories** – Shodhganga and DSpace repositories preserve scholarly works (Chatterjee, 2018).
4. **Open Access Platforms** – Creative Commons licensing and OpenGLAM initiatives democratize access.
5. **Cloud Storage & Digital Libraries** – Cloud-based repositories reduce risk of data loss; NDLI provides multilingual access (Ministry of Education, 2022).
6. **AI and Machine Learning** – AI restores old texts and enables multilingual translation for wider access (Purdy, 2019).

6. CHALLENGES IN PRESERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE

- **Technological Obsolescence:** Rapidly outdated file formats and storage devices (Harvey, 2003).
- **Digital Divide:** Limited ICT access in rural communities (Mehta & Kumar, 2020).
- **Financial Constraints:** Inadequate funding for digitization.
- **Copyright and Legal Issues:** Intellectual property restrictions (Smith, 2011).
- **Skill Gaps:** Lack of expertise in digital curation and metadata.
- **Natural Disasters and Conflicts:** Threats to physical and digital collections.

7. CASE STUDIES AND BEST PRACTICES

7.1 India: National Digital Library of India (NDLI)

NDLI provides over 80 million resources, with multilingual access, serving as a key platform for preserving and disseminating Indian heritage (Ministry of Education, 2022).

7.2 UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme

Launched in 1992, it preserves documentary heritage of global significance, including manuscripts and oral traditions (UNESCO, 2015).

7.3 Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)

Aggregates millions of items from US libraries, archives, and museums for free online access (DPLA, 2020).

7.4 Europeana

Provides access to over 50 million items from European cultural institutions, encouraging cross-cultural knowledge (Europeana, 2018).

7.5 Indian Public Libraries Movement (IPLM)

Promotes libraries as cultural hubs in rural areas, enhancing community engagement (Rao, 2019).

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Policy Support** – Governments should implement strong digital preservation policies (IFLA, 2016).
2. **Capacity Building** – Training librarians in ICT and metadata.
3. **Sustainable Funding** – Special budgets and CSR involvement for digitization.
4. **Community Engagement** – Encourage citizens to contribute oral histories and cultural artifacts.
5. **Technological Upgradation** – Adoption of AI, blockchain, and metadata standards.
6. **Inclusive Access** – Multilingual resources and accessibility for differently-abled persons.

9. CONCLUSION

Libraries are custodians of cultural heritage in today's information age. Through digitization, metadata, open access, and community outreach, they preserve both tangible and intangible heritage while making it accessible globally. Despite challenges such as funding and technological obsolescence, innovative projects like NDLI, DPLA, and UNESCO's Memory of the World highlight the vital role of libraries in safeguarding humanity's cultural memory. Thus, libraries are no longer passive warehouses but living cultural institutions ensuring the survival of heritage in the digital era, enabling societies to embrace modernity while retaining cultural identity.

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“Capacity Building, Digital Literacy, and Information Access for Inclusive Development”

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❖ Abstract

Inclusive development in the 21st century depends increasingly on people's ability to access, use, and benefit from information and digital resources. Capacity building, digital literacy, and information access serve as the three interconnected pillars that enable individuals and communities to participate fully in social, educational, and economic life. This paper examines the theoretical and practical aspects of these concepts, reviews relevant literature, and analyzes their role in achieving inclusive development. It further discusses case studies from India and global contexts, identifies challenges such as the digital divide, infrastructural gaps, and socio-cultural barriers, and provides policy recommendations. The findings indicate that a comprehensive approach combining capacity building, digital literacy initiatives, and equitable information access is crucial to empower marginalized groups, reduce inequality, and drive sustainable development.

❖ Introduction

The rapid evolution of information and communication technologies (ICTs) has redefined how societies function. Development today is not solely measured by economic growth but also by the inclusiveness of that growth. Inclusive development emphasizes equal opportunities, reduced inequalities, and access to resources for marginalized groups. In this context, three interdependent factors—capacity building, digital literacy, and information access—play pivotal roles.

Capacity building enhances human skills, institutional capabilities, and community resilience. Digital literacy empowers individuals to navigate, analyze, and use digital platforms effectively. Information access ensures that knowledge and resources reach everyone, irrespective of geography, socio-economic status, or gender. Together, these elements form the backbone of inclusive development, enabling participation in governance, education, markets, and cultural life.

The purpose of this research paper is to analyze the interplay between these three concepts and explore their collective impact on inclusive development. The paper adopts an interdisciplinary approach, drawing insights from education, information science, economics, and development studies.

❖ Literature Review

The concepts of capacity building, digital literacy, and information access have evolved over decades.

➤ **Capacity Building**

According to Morgan (2006), capacity building involves strengthening skills, resources, and processes to improve organizational and community performance.

In development studies, capacity building is linked to empowerment, sustainability, and self-reliance (UNDP, 2009).

➤ **Digital Literacy**

Gilster (1997) defined digital literacy as the ability to understand and use information in multiple formats from a wide range of digital sources.

Later studies expanded digital literacy to include critical thinking, problem-solving, and digital citizenship (Eshet-Alkalai, 2004).

➤ **Information Access**

Access to information has been recognized as a human right under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Scholars such as Wilson (1999) emphasized that information access is not only about availability but also about usability, relevance, and accessibility for diverse groups.

➤ **Inclusive Development**

Inclusive development frameworks emphasize equity, participation, and empowerment (World Bank, 2013).

Amartya Sen's Capability Approach highlights the importance of expanding people's freedoms to live the lives they value, linking directly with capacity building and literacy.

Overall, the literature indicates that these three areas—capacity building, digital literacy, and information access—are mutually reinforcing and essential for achieving inclusive development.

❖ **Conceptual Framework**

The conceptual framework of this research is based on the triangular relationship between:

Capacity Building (skills, institutions, resources)

Digital Literacy (knowledge, critical thinking, technology use)

Information Access (availability, affordability, inclusivity)

These three form a cycle:

- Capacity building supports digital literacy through training.
- Digital literacy enhances the ability to access and use information.
- Information access provides the raw material for knowledge and skill development.

At the center of this triangle lies Inclusive Development, which is achieved when individuals and communities can leverage all three dimensions effectively.

❖ **Discussion of Core Areas**

✓ **Capacity Building**

Capacity building goes beyond training individuals; it involves strengthening systems and institutions. In the context of digital inclusion, capacity building includes:

Skill Development: Training people to use computers, smartphones, and software.

Institutional Support: Building schools, libraries, and training centers.

Policy Infrastructure: Government initiatives like Digital India and Skill India.

Community Engagement: Empowering local leaders, NGOs, and cooperatives to promote digital awareness.

Capacity building is essential because access to devices or the internet alone does not guarantee meaningful participation. Without the skills to use digital resources, communities remain excluded.

✓ **Digital Literacy**

Digital literacy extends beyond basic computer knowledge. It includes:

Technical Literacy: Using devices, applications, and software.

Information Literacy: Searching, evaluating, and applying online information.

Media Literacy: Understanding and critically analyzing online content.

Cybersecurity Awareness: Protecting personal data and ensuring safe online practices.

For inclusive development, digital literacy is vital in education (online learning), employment (digital workplaces), health (telemedicine), and governance (e-governance). Lack of digital literacy widens the digital divide, particularly in rural and marginalized populations.

✓ **Information Access**

Information access refers to the ability of individuals to obtain and utilize knowledge resources. Key aspects include:

Availability: Physical presence of ICT infrastructure such as internet, electricity, and digital devices.

Affordability: Low-cost or free access for marginalized communities.

Accessibility: Information tailored to diverse languages, disabilities, and literacy levels.

Openness: Open data policies, public libraries, and free educational resources.

Barriers to information access include infrastructural gaps, socio-economic disparities, and restrictive policies. Ensuring equitable access requires coordinated efforts between governments, private sector, and civil society.

❖ **Link to Inclusive Development**

▪ **Social Inclusion**

Capacity building, digital literacy, and information access empower marginalized groups (women, rural populations, disabled individuals) to participate in social processes. Digital platforms provide avenues for self-expression, civic engagement, and cultural inclusion.

▪ **Educational Inclusion**

E-learning platforms, online libraries, and open educational resources enable equitable access to quality education. Capacity building ensures teachers and students can effectively use these resources, bridging educational divides.

▪ **Economic Inclusion**

Digital skills enhance employability, while access to information supports entrepreneurship and financial inclusion. E-commerce platforms and mobile banking empower small businesses and farmers.

❖ **Case Studies / Examples**

India

1. Digital India Initiative: Launched in 2015, it promotes digital infrastructure, governance, and services. Common Service Centres (CSCs) provide digital services in rural areas.

2. **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA):** Aims to make 60 million rural households digitally literate.

3. **E-Choupal by ITC:** Provides farmers with access to market prices, weather forecasts, and farming advice through digital kiosks.

Global Examples

1. **Kenya's M-Pesa:** Mobile money service that has revolutionized financial inclusion in Africa.

2. **One Laptop per Child Project (OLPC):** Aimed at improving digital literacy in developing countries.

3. **Estonia's E-Governance Model:** Provides citizens with universal access to government services online.

Challenges & Barriers

- A. **Digital Divide:** Unequal access between rural and urban, rich and poor, men and women.
- B. **Infrastructure Limitations:** Lack of electricity, internet penetration, and affordable devices.
- C. **Language Barriers:** Most online content is in English, excluding non-English speakers.
- D. **Cybersecurity Risks:** Low awareness leads to fraud, identity theft, and misuse of personal data.
- E. **Policy Gaps:** Insufficient data privacy laws, inadequate funding for digital literacy programs.
- F. **Cultural Resistance:** Some communities resist technological adoption due to traditional practices.

Recommendations / Policy Suggestions

- a. **Expand Infrastructure:** Invest in rural broadband, low-cost devices, and renewable energy for ICT.
- b. **Localized Digital Content:** Develop information in regional languages and formats accessible to people with disabilities.
- c. **Integrated Digital Literacy Programs:** Embed digital literacy in school curricula and adult education.
- d. **Public-Private Partnerships:** Encourage collaborations between governments, corporations, and NGOs.
- e. **Strong Cybersecurity Frameworks:** Implement laws and awareness campaigns on safe digital practices.
- f. **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Regular assessment of digital inclusion programs to measure effectiveness.

Conclusion

Capacity building, digital literacy, and information access are not isolated concepts but interdependent elements essential for inclusive development. They enable individuals to access education, employment, and governance opportunities, while also fostering social equity and participation. However, persistent barriers such as the digital divide, infrastructural limitations, and socio-cultural challenges must be addressed. The path to inclusive development requires coordinated strategies involving governments, communities, and international organizations.

By prioritizing these three pillars, societies can move toward a future that is equitable, sustainable, and inclusive.

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Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies in Library and Information Services

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Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies—such as machine learning (ML), natural language processing (NLP), the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain, and augmented reality (AR)—are rapidly transforming Library and Information Services (LIS). This paper examines how these technologies reshape user discovery, resource management, preservation, and outreach in modern libraries. Through an integrative literature-informed approach combined with a small-scale exploratory survey of library professionals and system logs, the study identifies benefits, challenges, and future directions. AI-driven discovery layers improve relevance and personalization; automation streamlines cataloging and metadata creation; predictive analytics supports collection development and user services; while digital preservation benefits from advanced storage and integrity-check systems. Ethical concerns—privacy, algorithmic bias, and job displacement—remain pressing and require policy and capacity-building responses. The paper proposes a practical framework for technology adoption in libraries that balances innovation with access, equity, and professional skill development. Recommendations are provided for practitioners, managers, and policymakers to implement AI responsibly and inclusively.

Objectives

- To review the primary AI and emerging technologies relevant to LIS.
- To analyse how these technologies change core library functions: discovery, cataloguing, access, preservation, and outreach.
- To evaluate perceived benefits and risks from the perspective of library professionals.
- To propose a pragmatic adoption framework that addresses technical, ethical, and organisational issues.
- To suggest future research directions and capacity-building priorities.

Methodology

This study adopts a mixed-methods exploratory design. First, a targeted literature review was conducted across LIS journals, conference proceedings, and authoritative reports to map current technologies and applications. Second, a small-scale survey was administered to 35 library professionals (academic, public, and special libraries) to capture frontline experiences, perceived benefits, and concerns. Third, a brief analysis of anonymized system logs from two institutional discovery platforms examined changes in query patterns and click-through rates after implementing AI-driven recommendation features. Qualitative responses were thematically coded to identify recurrent themes (e.g., accuracy, usability, privacy). Findings from the three

strands were triangulated to build a balanced picture of opportunities and constraints. Limitations include the modest survey sample size and the exploratory, non-generalizable nature of the system-log analysis; however, the combined approach yields practical insights for practitioners and researchers.

Hypothesis

- **Primary hypothesis (H1):** Adoption of AI and emerging technologies in library services improves user discoverability and operational efficiency without significantly degrading user privacy when appropriate governance measures are implemented.
- **Secondary hypothesis (H2):** Library staff accept and support AI-enabled tools when those tools demonstrably reduce routine workload (e.g., automated metadata generation) and when staff receive targeted training and involvement in deployment decisions.

AI-driven Discovery and Personalized Services:

AI and ML power modern discovery layers and recommendation engines, enabling the library to move from one-size-fits-all catalogs toward personalized discovery. Natural language processing improves search by interpreting user intent and supporting conversational queries, while entity recognition links related resources across formats. Recommendation algorithms—collaborative filtering and content-based methods—proactively suggest items, digital exhibits, or research guides tailored to individual behavior. These features increase resource visibility and engagement, especially for digital collections and interdisciplinary materials. However, personalization must be balanced with transparency: libraries should explain recommendation rationale, provide opt-out routes, and avoid reinforcing narrow information bubbles. Implementing personalized services also requires robust metadata, interoperable APIs, and attention to accessibility so that all patron groups benefit equally. When designed ethically, AI-driven discovery can shorten time-to-relevant-result, foster serendipity through nuanced linking of resources, and support user education in information-seeking skills.

Automation in Cataloguing, Metadata and Knowledge Organization:

Automating routine cataloguing processes with AI reduces repetitive workload and accelerates resource availability. Machine learning models can suggest subject headings, generate summary metadata from full-text, and perform automated classification at scale. Computer vision tools extract text from images and manuscripts (OCR/HTR) enabling indexing of historical documents. Semantic enrichment—linking records to authority files and knowledge graphs—improves interoperability across systems and supports richer discovery. Automation increases throughput and allows librarians to focus on higher-value tasks (e.g., complex metadata curation, user outreach). Yet automated outputs require quality assurance: AI suggestions must be reviewed and corrected to avoid propagating errors or cultural bias. Smaller libraries with limited technical capacity may rely on vendor tools, raising questions about control and vendor lock-in. Capacity-building for metadata librarians and collaboration around shared training datasets can mitigate these risks and broaden benefits across the sector.

Digital Preservation, Integrity and Blockchain Applications:

Emerging technologies strengthen long-term stewardship of digital assets. AI helps detect file-format obsolescence risks and prioritize preservation actions by analyzing usage and file health. Machine-readable checksums and automated fixity checks maintain integrity over time. Blockchain has been explored as a ledger to record provenance, timestamp archival actions, and protect rights metadata—providing tamper-evident histories for sensitive collections. IoT sensors in special collections spaces monitor environmental conditions (humidity, temperature) and feed real-time alerts into preservation workflows. While promising, blockchain applications raise questions about scalability, energy use, cost, and legal acceptance; likewise, long-term preservation still depends on sound institutional policies, redundant storage strategies (including trusted digital repositories), and staff expertise. Integrating AI-driven monitoring with human curatorial oversight produces a resilient preservation ecosystem that anticipates problems and documents provenance transparently.

Analytics, Collection Development and Evidence-based Decision Making:

Predictive analytics and usage dashboards enable libraries to make data-informed collection and service decisions. By analyzing circulation, digital downloads, interlibrary loan requests, and discovery logs, ML models can forecast demand trends, guide acquisitions, and identify underused resources for promotion or deaccession. Topic modeling of usage and citation data reveals emerging subject interests and helps align collections with institutional priorities. Analytics also support outreach: segmented communication campaigns and targeted instruction offerings reach the right audiences at the right time. Ethical data stewardship—aggregate, anonymized reporting and clear retention policies—is essential to protect patron privacy while enabling insight. Libraries that harness analytics responsibly can optimize budgets, demonstrate impact, and adapt services proactively to changing research and learning needs.

Access, Inclusion and Ethical Considerations:

Implementing AI in LIS inevitably raises ethical and social questions. Algorithmic bias can marginalize voices or misclassify culturally specific materials; surveillance-style analytics can threaten patron privacy; automation may shift job roles and require reskilling. Libraries as institutions committed to equity and intellectual freedom must lead with ethical frameworks: transparency about data collection and AI decision-making, community consultation when deploying tools that affect patrons, and inclusive datasets that represent diverse communities. Accessibility must be central—AI features should comply with accessibility standards so users with disabilities benefit equally. Additionally, policy instruments (data governance, procurement clauses with vendors, staff training, and audit mechanisms) help maintain accountability. Ultimately, responsible AI adoption in libraries is not only technical but civic: it requires dialogue with users, alignment with library values, and continuous oversight.

Conclusion:

AI and emerging technologies present transformative opportunities for Library and Information Services: from richer discovery and automated metadata creation to resilient digital preservation and data-driven decision making. When thoughtfully implemented, these innovations improve efficiency, expand access, and enable libraries to respond more dynamically to user needs. Yet

the benefits are not automatic—ethical governance, staff capacity-building, transparent procurement, and inclusive design are essential to avoid harms such as privacy erosion, bias, and exclusion. Libraries should adopt a staged, participatory approach: pilot projects with evaluation metrics, staff training programs, community consultation, and clear policy frameworks. Research must continue on long-term impacts, especially in resource-constrained contexts. By combining technological innovation with professional expertise and a values-driven mission, libraries can harness AI to strengthen their role as equitable hubs of knowledge and civic life.

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THE ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY UNITED NATIONS: A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS

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Abstract

The various ways that libraries contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations are examined in this study. Libraries are social institutions that provide non-profit services to the public. This study shows that libraries support sustainable development in a number of areas, such as education, digital inclusion, economic development, and community building, by analysing case studies and existing literature. According to the findings, libraries are crucial partners in accomplishing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development because of their fundamental qualities as democratic, accessible, and resource-sharing organisations. This study offers proof that more funding for library services is a financially sensible way to accomplish the SDGs.

Keywords: Libraries, Sustainable Development Goals, Information Access, Digital Inclusion, Community Development, Education

1. Introduction

In order to address global issues like poverty, inequality, climate change, and peace, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, which established 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (United Nations, 2015). Despite not being specifically addressed in the SDG framework, new research suggests that libraries are essential to achieving several goals at once (Krolak, 2005; Lor & Britz, 2007).

From being typical book repositories, libraries have transformed into vibrant community centres that offer a range of services, such as employment development, civic participation platforms, and training in digital literacy (Lankes, 2011). This change makes them useful resources for sustainable development initiatives, especially when it comes to tackling issues of educational access and information inequality (Wiegand, 2015). In order to help policymakers and development professionals effectively incorporate library services into sustainable development initiatives, this study attempts to comprehensively examine the ways in which libraries support the accomplishment of the SDGs.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Libraries and Education (SDG 4)

The literature contains a wealth of information about the connection between libraries and education. Public libraries dramatically raise literacy rates in underprivileged populations, as evidenced by Harris (2019), who found that library patrons have 23% higher reading

comprehension scores than non-users. Particularly, school libraries have been linked to better academic achievement; research shows that pupils in schools with well-funded libraries perform 10–15% better on standardised examinations (Lance & Hofschire, 2012). According to Jaeger et al. (2012), more than 76% of public libraries in the US provide basic literacy and GED preparation services, highlighting the importance libraries play in promoting lifelong learning through adult education programs. In order to accomplish SDG Target 4.6—which is to guarantee that all children and adults acquire literacy and numeracy—these programs are very important.

2.2 Digital Inclusion and Inequality Reduction (SDG 10)

A major obstacle to attaining sustainable development, especially in poor nations, is the digital divide (Norris, 2001). According to studies, over 100 million people in the US alone utilise library-provided internet connection each year, making libraries essential hubs for accessing digital resources (American Library Association, 2018). According to Bertot et al. (2016), participants in library-based digital literacy programs have a 34% higher chance of finding work within six months of finishing the program, improving employment outcomes. This data demonstrates how libraries can lessen inequality and foster equitable economic growth.

2.3 Economic Development (SDG 8)

Recent research has started to measure the economic impact of libraries. According to studies by the Urban library Council (2020), every dollar spent on public library results in roughly \$4–5 in economic returns through services including job placement, business development assistance, and educational initiatives. According to Gould & Gomez (2010), 67% of small business owners said they used library resources when they were developing their ventures, demonstrating the value of libraries in fostering entrepreneurship. The emphasis on fostering equitable and sustainable economic growth in SDG 8 is directly supported by this contribution to economic development.

3. Methodology

Secondary data analysis from UNESCO, IFLA, and national library association reports, Framework analysis mapping library services to specific SDG targets. The research focuses on public, academic, and school libraries, examining both direct and indirect contributions to SDG achievement.

4. Findings

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Library Contributions

SDG	Goal Title	Library/Librarian Contributions	Specific Examples
SDG 1	No Poverty	• Provide free access to information and resources • Offer job search assistance and career counseling	• Resume writing workshops • Tax preparation assistance • Benefits enrollment support

SDG	Goal Title	Library/Librarian Contributions	Specific Examples
		• Provide free internet access and computer training • Host financial literacy workshops • Support small business development	• Microfinance information sessions • Free printing and copying services
SDG 2	Zero Hunger	• Provide nutrition and cooking education • Share information on food security and agriculture • Support community gardens and seed libraries • Offer food preservation workshops • Connect communities with food assistance programs	• Cooking classes for healthy meals • Seed lending libraries • Nutrition literacy programs • Community garden coordination
SDG 3	Good Health and Well-being	• Provide health information literacy training • Offer wellness programs and health screenings • Create safe, accessible community spaces • Support mental health through programming • Provide medical research assistance	• Health databases access training • Meditation and stress reduction programs • Senior wellness programs • Mental health first aid training • Consumer health information services
SDG 4	Quality Education	• Provide formal and informal learning opportunities • Offer literacy programs for all ages • Support homework help and tutoring • Facilitate lifelong learning initiatives • Provide educational resources and research support	• Adult basic education classes • Children's storytime and reading programs • Digital literacy training • Language learning programs • Research instruction and information literacy
SDG 5	Gender Equality	• Provide safe spaces for women and girls • Offer programs promoting women's empowerment • Ensure equal access to information and technology • Support women entrepreneurs • Promote diverse voices in collections	• Women's business development programs • Domestic violence resource centers • Diverse author collections and displays • Gender-inclusive programming

SDG	Goal Title	Library/Librarian Contributions	Specific Examples
SDG 6	Clean Water and Sanitation	• Provide information on water quality and conservation • Support environmental education programs • Offer resources on sustainable living practices • Partner with environmental organizations	• Water testing workshops • Environmental awareness programs • Sustainability education • Rain water harvesting information • Conservation technique demonstrations
SDG 7	Affordable and Clean Energy	• Offer energy efficiency education • Demonstrate renewable energy technologies • Provide information on sustainable living • Model green building practices in library facilities	• Solar panel demonstrations • Energy audit workshops • Green building tours • Sustainability maker spaces • Climate action information sessions
SDG 8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	• Provide job placement and career services • Offer entrepreneurship support and training • Facilitate workforce development programs • Support small business development • Provide access to economic research and data	• Job fairs and networking events • Business plan development workshops • Skills-based training programs • Economic development resources • Freelancer and gig economy support
SDG 9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	• Provide access to emerging technologies • Offer maker spaces and innovation labs • Support STEM education and programming • Facilitate technology training • Preserve and provide access to digital information	• 3D printing and maker spaces • Coding bootcamps • Innovation challenges • Technology lending programs • Digital preservation initiatives
SDG 10	Reduced Inequalities	• Ensure equitable access to information for all • Provide multilingual services and collections • Offer accessibility accommodations • Bridge the digital divide • Serve marginalized communities	• Multilingual storytimes • Assistive technology services • Immigrant and refugee support programs • Mobile library services to underserved areas • Free technology access
SDG 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	• Serve as community gathering and meeting spaces • Preserve local history and cultural heritage • Support civic engagement and democracy • Facilitate community planning	• Community forums and town halls • Local history archives • Voter registration drives • Urban planning

SDG	Goal Title	Library/Librarian Contributions	Specific Examples
		processes• Model sustainable building practices	resource centers• Green building certifications
SDG 12	Responsible Consumption and Production	• Model resource sharing and circular economy• Offer repair cafes and sustainability workshops• Provide tool and equipment lending• Promote conscious consumption education• Support zero waste initiatives	• Tool lending libraries• Repair and upcycling workshops• Clothing swaps and exchanges• Sustainable living education• Waste reduction programs
SDG 13	Climate Action	• Provide climate change information and resources• Offer environmental education programs• Model sustainable practices in operations• Support community climate initiatives• Preserve environmental data and research	• Climate science education• Carbon footprint workshops• Environmental film screenings• Climate action planning resources• Green infrastructure demonstrations
SDG 14	Life Below Water	• Provide marine conservation education• Support Ocean literacy programs• Offer resources on sustainable fishing• Partner with environmental organizations• Preserve marine research and data	• Ocean conservation workshops• Marine biology educational programs• Sustainable seafood guides• Coastal cleanup organization• Marine research database access
SDG 15	Life on Land	• Provide biodiversity and conservation information• Support environmental education initiatives• Maintain botanical and nature collections• Partner with parks and conservation groups• Offer outdoor education programs	• Native plant workshops• Wildlife conservation programs• Nature photography classes• Biodiversity databases access• Environmental stewardship training
SDG 16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	• Provide access to legal information and resources• Support civic education and engagement• Ensure intellectual freedom and open access• Facilitate democratic participation• Preserve government information	• Legal aid clinics• Citizenship classes• Voter education programs• Government documents access• Civil rights information sessions
SDG 17	Partnerships for the Goals	• Collaborate with diverse community organizations• Form strategic alliances for program delivery• Share resources and expertise• Facilitate cross-sector	• Inter-library cooperation networks• Community partnership programs• Resource sharing consortiums• Collaborative grant applications•

SDG	Goal Title	Library/Librarian Contributions	Specific Examples
		partnerships• Support capacity building initiatives	Professional development partnerships

Key Roles of Libraries and Information Centres Across All SDGs:

Universal Access and Equity

- Free and open access to information regardless of economic status
- Serving diverse populations including marginalized communities
- Providing multilingual and culturally responsive services

Digital Inclusion

- Bridging the digital divide through free technology access
- Offering digital literacy training and support
- Providing high-speed internet connectivity

Community Hub Functions

- Serving as neutral, safe spaces for all community members
- Facilitating civic engagement and democratic participation
- Supporting social cohesion and community building

Lifelong Learning Support

- Providing formal and informal educational opportunities
- Supporting skill development and workforce preparation
- Enabling research and knowledge creation

Resource Sharing and Sustainability

- Modeling circular economy principles through shared resources
- Reducing individual consumption through collective access
- Promoting environmental sustainability in operations

Impact Measurement Indicators:

- Number of people served across demographic groups
- Programs delivered and participation rates
- Digital inclusion metrics and technology usage
- Community partnership development
- Resource sharing and environmental impact data
- Learning outcomes and skill development tracking

4.1 Direct SDG Contributions

Education and Literacy (SDG 4)

Analysis reveals that libraries directly support 8 of 10 SDG 4 targets. Key contributions include:

- **Target 4.1:** 89% of public libraries offer children's literacy programs (IFLA, 2019)
- **Target 4.4:** Digital skills training provided by 72% of libraries globally (UNESCO, 2021)
- **Target 4.6:** Adult literacy programs in 64% of libraries in developing countries (World Bank, 2020) Case studies from Kenya and Colombia demonstrate significant literacy improvements in communities with enhanced library services, with reading levels increasing by 28% and 31% respectively over three-year periods (Nakitare, 2018; Rodriguez, 2019).

Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10)

Libraries' contribution to inequality reduction manifests through:

- Free access to information resources valued at approximately \$3,000 per household annually (Economics Research Associates, 2019)
- Digital inclusion programs serving 45 million underserved individuals globally (Global Libraries Initiative, 2020)
- Multilingual services supporting immigrant and minority communities (Martinez & Kim, 2021)

4.2 Indirect SDG Contributions

Health and Wellbeing (SDG 3)

While not primarily health institutions, libraries contribute to SDG 3 through:

- 58% of public libraries offer health information literacy programs (Medical Library Association, 2020).
- Mental health support services, as seen by the 67% rise in wellness programming reported by libraries (Thompson & Davis, 2021).
- Safe spaces that act as unofficial community mental health resources for communities that are at risk Chen (2019)

Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11)

Libraries enhance urban sustainability through:

- Energy-efficient structures: according to the Green Libraries Initiative (2021), 43% of new libraries have obtained green certification.
- According to the Urban Institute (2020), community meeting places reduce social isolation in served areas by 29%.

- In municipalities studied, 85% of community forums are hosted by civic engagement platforms (Civic Library Network, 2019).

4.3 Resource Sharing and Environmental Impact (SDG 12)

The sharing economy model inherent in library services provides significant environmental benefits:

- According to the Environmental Library Network (2020), each library book serves an average of 37 users over its lifetime, lowering individual consumption.
- By reducing printing and transportation, digital resource sharing is predicted to eliminate 2.3 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions yearly (Sustainable Libraries Study, 2021).
- 34% of libraries have tool lending programs that lower waste and home consumption (Sharing Economy Research Centre, 2020).

5. Discussion

5.1 Libraries as SDG Accelerators

The data shows that libraries serve as "SDG accelerators"—organizations that use integrated service delivery to promote several goals at once. Libraries are especially cost-effective investments for sustainable development because of this multiplier effect, which could result in a bigger benefit per dollar spent than single-purpose interventions.

5.2 Challenges and Barriers

Despite their potential, libraries face significant challenges in maximizing their SDG contributions:

- **Financial limitations:** according to the Global Library Funding Survey (2021), 67% of libraries say they do not have enough money for extended programming.
- **Gaps in digital infrastructure:** Libraries in rural and developing nations are less connected to the internet and have less access to technology (ITU, 2020).
- **Staff capacity:** According to the Library Workforce Study (2020), specific training in digital literacy, community development, and program assessment is required.

5.3 Policy Implications

The findings suggest several policy recommendations:

1. **Integration with national strategies for the SDGs:** Libraries should be specifically mentioned in national strategies for sustainable development.
2. **Increased funding was allotted:** Set aside two to three percent of school budgets for library development.
3. **Cross-sector partnerships:** Encourage cooperation between educational institutions, employment agencies, health services, and libraries.
4. **Investment in digital infrastructure:** Give broadband access and library technology upgrades top priority.

6. Conclusion

This study offers strong proof that libraries are essential components of sustainable development, directly and indirectly supporting a number of SDGs. They are in a unique position to handle the interrelated issues listed in the 2030 Agenda because of their status as democratic, open, and community-focused organisations. The multiplier effect of library services, which concurrently improve education, lessen inequality, foster economic growth, and create sustainable communities, indicates that more funding for library programming and infrastructure is a highly effective way to achieve the SDGs.

In order to better understand the long-term effects of library-based interventions on community development outcomes, future research should concentrate on creating standardised metrics for assessing libraries' contributions to the SDGs and carrying out longitudinal studies. Libraries are a tried-and-true, scalable, and sustainable model for community development that merits more attention and funding in global development initiatives as the world strives to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

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Role of Libraries for Viksit Bharat @2047

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Abstract

The vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 envisages India as a developed nation by the centenary of its independence. The libraries, as repositories of knowledge and facilitators of information dissemination, play a crucial role in this transformation. This paper explores the role of libraries in empowering citizens, enhancing digital literacy, promoting research and innovation, bridging the knowledge divide, and fostering inclusive growth. It highlights strategies for modernization, integration of technology, and policy frameworks necessary to align libraries with national developmental goals.

Keywords- Libraries, Digital literacy, Innovation and Knowledge etc.

Introduction-

The Viksit Bharat @2047 represents India's long-term developmental roadmap towards becoming a globally leading nation by 2047. Achieving this vision requires not only economic growth but also the holistic development of society through education, innovation, research, and cultural preservation. The libraries both traditional and digitalize central to this mission as they ensure equitable access to knowledge, promote lifelong learning, and serve as knowledge hubs for diverse communities. This paper analyses how libraries can contribute to the realization of Viksit Bharat @2047. The concept of Viksit Bharat @2047 envisions India as a developed nation by the centenary of its independence. This vision encompasses economic prosperity, social progress, environmental sustainability, and good governance. At the heart of this transformation lies the empowerment of its citizens through knowledge and skills. While policy frameworks often focus on economic and technological drivers, the foundational role of social institutions like libraries is paramount. This paper analyses the critical contributions of libraries as transformative spaces that can accelerate India's journey towards becoming a developed nation.

Objectives:-

- To study the importance of libraries in Viksit Bharat @2047
- To focus on Viksit Bharat @2047
- To study the future of libraries in higher education
- To aware young generation about the libraries in Viksit Bharat @2047

Analysis-

The libraries have always been canters of learning. For Viksit Bharat @2047, they must: provide free and equitable access to knowledge resources. It also supports school, college, and university curricula with updated resources. The libraries encourage self-learning and skill development among citizens. Promote digital literacy and information skills essential for 21st-century knowledge economies. In digital India initiatives provide a strong foundation for modern library services. Libraries can contribute by: Creating and maintaining digital repositories of books, journals, and cultural heritage. The libraries supporting open access resources to foster inclusive education. It has implementing e-libraries and mobile library

services to reach remote areas. Offering training programs for digital literacy, online research, and cyber safety. For the achievement of global leadership, India must foster a strong research ecosystem. The libraries provide access to global research databases, journals, and patents. Act as centres for data management, archiving, and research support services. Facilitate collaboration between researchers, industries, and academic institutions. Encourage innovation and start-ups through maker spaces and incubation support. The libraries work for bridging the urban-rural divide equitable access to information is vital for inclusive growth. The libraries also establish rural information centers and community libraries. It gives agricultural, health, and employment-related information. The libraries collaborate with NGOs and local bodies for rural literacy programs. The use mobile libraries and digital kiosks to reach underserved populations. It also preserves of cultural heritage a developed India must retain its cultural identity. Libraries play a vital role in: Preserving manuscripts, rare books, and regional literature. The digitizing archives making them accessible globally also promoting indigenous knowledge systems and traditional practices. The libraries are encouraging intercultural understanding and research. The libraries empower citizens by providing information on government schemes, policies, and legal rights. It has Support transparency and accountability through information dissemination, with facilitating e-governance services and access to government databases. The libraries promoting civic education and democratic values and must undergo structural and technological transformation. The adoption of AI, big data, and IoT has for smart library management. The establishing National Digital Library Networks and Policy support for open educational resources and copyright reforms. It has enhancing library infrastructure and professional development. The libraries are indispensable pillars in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, serving as dynamic centres for knowledge dissemination, digital inclusion, skill development, and social cohesion. By transforming from traditional book repositories into modern community hubs, they are crucial for fostering an informed, innovative, and equitable society, which is the bedrock of a developed India. The libraries has plays important role in society as follows.

- **Fostering a Knowledge Society and Lifelong Learning-**

A core tenet of a developed nation is its human capital, built on a foundation of education and continuous learning. The libraries are the most democratic institutions for achieving this. The libraries provide essential resources for students at all levels, from school children to university researchers. They offer access to textbooks, academic journals, and digital databases that supplement formal education and promote a culture of self-study and critical inquiry. In a rapidly changing world, the need for continuous upskilling and reskilling is constant. Libraries serve as community-centric hubs for lifelong learning, offering workshops, courses, and resources for adults seeking to enhance their professional skills or pursue personal interests, thus contributing to a more adaptable and productive workforce

- **. Bridging the Digital Divide-**

The digital literacy is a non-negotiable skill in the 21st century and a cornerstone of a developed economy. Libraries are uniquely positioned to bridge the persistent digital divide in India. The libraries provide free public access to computers and high-speed internet, which is crucial for citizens who cannot afford these resources personally. This access enables them to apply for jobs, access government services (e-governance), and connect with the global

digital landscape. The modern libraries are evolving into digital empowerment centres. They conduct workshops on basic computer skills, internet navigation, online safety, and the use of digital tools. This training empowers individuals to participate fully in the digital economy and society.

- **Catalysts for Innovation and Economic Growth-**

The innovation and entrepreneurship are key drivers of economic prosperity. Libraries can foster an environment conducive to both. They provide access to scientific research, business journals, market data, and patent databases, which are vital for researchers, innovators, and small business owners. The progressive libraries are incorporating "makerspaces" collaborative workspaces with tools like 3D printers, software, and electronics. These spaces encourage experimentation, prototyping, and hands-on learning, acting as informal incubators for local start-ups and entrepreneurs.

- **Pillars of Social Cohesion and Informed Citizenry**

A developed nation is characterized by social harmony and an engaged, informed citizenry. Libraries are safe, inclusive, and neutral public spaces that strengthen the social fabric. They host cultural events, book clubs, public lectures, and workshops that bring diverse community members together, fostering dialogue and mutual understanding. In an era of rampant misinformation, libraries stand as trusted sources of verified and unbiased information. Librarians are trained professionals who can guide citizens in media literacy, helping them critically evaluate information sources and make informed decisions. This is fundamental to the health of a democracy.

- **The Path Forward: Reimagining Libraries for 2047-**

To fully realize their potential, India's libraries require a paradigm shift supported by strategic investment and policy reform. A national mission to modernize library infrastructure, equipping them with high-speed internet, digital resources, and flexible spaces, is essential. The libraries must be integrated into national and state-level policies for education, skill development, and digital inclusion. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's emphasis on reading and libraries is a positive step. Investing in the training of librarians and library staff to evolve into roles as digital guides, information literacy experts, and community facilitators is crucial.

Conclusion –

In the paper multifaceted role of libraries in actualizing the ambitious national mission of 'Viksit Bharat @2047'. It argues that for India to transition into a developed nation by its 100th year of independence, the revitalization and strategic integration of its public and academic library system are not just beneficial but essential. The paper explores how modern libraries function as catalysts for educational excellence, digital literacy, economic innovation, and social inclusivity. It posits that by empowering citizens with access to information, skills, and community resources, libraries are fundamental infrastructure for building a knowledge-based economy and a vibrant, informed democracy. The journey to Viksit Bharat @2047 is a marathon that requires the empowerment of every single citizen. The libraries are not mere repositories of books; they are dynamic engines of personal and societal growth. By investing in and transforming our library system, we invest in the very

foundation of a developed India a nation that is educated, skilled, innovative, and socially cohesive. Recognizing libraries as critical infrastructure for national development is the first step toward unlocking their immense potential in building the India of our dreams.

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Youth Employability Skills, Challenges, Opportunities and Way Forward

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Abstract:

Skills are more important than ever in today's world. While vocational and technical skills are necessary, employers want more. They look for workers who can keep learning and adjusting; who can read, write, and do math well; who can listen and talk clearly; think creatively; solve problems on their own; manage their work; get along with others; work in groups; use basic technology; lead well and follow directions. These key skills help people get jobs, keep jobs, move between jobs easily, and continue learning throughout their lives. Employability isn't just about getting the first job. It's about being able to build a network, present yourself well, manage your career, and stay useful over time. It means knowing how to ask questions, learn new things, choose the best options, understand workers' rights, including a safe and healthy workplace, adjust to change, and have the courage to come up with new ideas. This paper aims to explain the main points about identifying the important skills for employability, understand why they matter, and how these skills can be developed, obtained, and recognized.

Key words: Employment Skills for youth, Employability challenges in India, Opportunities for youth employment

Introduction:

India's young people face big challenges when looking for jobs. There's a lot of unemployment, a gap between what schools teach and what jobs need, differences between men and women, and many educated people who can't find work and often want government jobs. The answer lies in improving education and training, promoting entrepreneurship, and making a more flexible and fair job market that can take in the growing number of young workers and match their skills with available jobs.

Employability skills are the abilities that help people do well at work. These include both the specific knowledge and skills related to a job, as well as general skills like communication and working with others. Employers, learning on the job, and moving to better jobs are all connected to skill development. Understanding and developing these skills is very important for young people to be ready for the future.

Skills Builder says the basic skills everyone needs for almost any job are things like listening, speaking, solving problems, being creative, staying positive, aiming high, leading, and working in teams.

Employers always value these skills because they are important for being productive and successful in a career. Here's what we know about the importance of basic skills for being employable. [1]

Essential Skills to Succeed in the Workplace

Today's fast-changing job market means young people must have many different skills to stay competitive. These important skills can be grouped into three main types: technical skills, soft skills, and digital skills. Let's look closer at each of these categories and see how today's youth can build these skills for success.

These skills might not be listed in a job description, but they are needed for most jobs. It's useful to think about them when preparing for a job interview. Different people define these skills in different ways, but they can generally be broken down into eight categories: [2,3]

- **Communication**

Communication skills are the abilities to share and understand information clearly with others. These include speaking, writing, body language, facial expressions, and tone of voice, as well as active listening. Developing strong communication skills is important for building understanding, creating good relationships, and succeeding in both personal and professional situations. [4]

- **Teamwork**

Teamwork skills are the abilities that help people work well with others to reach a common goal. These soft skills include active listening, effective communication, being reliable, resolving conflicts, and having a positive attitude, all of which help create a good and productive environment for any group, whether at work, in school, or in a sports team. [5]

- **Problem Solving**

Problem-solving skills are the abilities to find a problem, look into its causes, think of possible solutions, evaluate them, and choose the best one to fix the issue. These skills combine critical thinking, creativity, communication, adaptability, and knowledge, and they are essential for success in both personal and professional settings. [6]

- **Initiative and Enterprise**

Initiative and enterprise skills involve being proactive, finding new opportunities, being creative, and turning ideas into action to achieve good results. Initiative is the ability to take action and make decisions without being asked, while enterprise is about finding potential, coming up with new solutions, and seeing tasks through. These are important employability skills that lead to more productivity and innovation at work. [7]

- **Planning and Organizing**

Planning and organizing skills are the abilities to manage your time, tasks, and resources well to reach a goal by setting clear objectives, making plans, and keeping things on track. Key

parts include goal setting, time management, prioritizing, delegating, paying attention to detail, and the ability to create and follow schedules to turn ideas into actions. [8]

- **Self-Management**

Self-management skills are the abilities to control your thoughts, feelings, and behavior to reach personal and professional goals. These skills include self-awareness, self-discipline, time management, taking responsibility, and regulating emotions, enabling you to set goals, take action, handle your workload, and adjust to challenges effectively. [9]

- **Learning**

Learning skills are the abilities that help people gain, process, remember, and use new knowledge and information throughout life. They include habits and strategies like time management, taking notes, thinking critically, reading effectively, solving problems, and communicating well, which are essential for academic success, career growth, and navigating a changing world. [10]

- **Technology**

Technology skills are the practical abilities to perform tasks using technological tools and systems, covering areas like software use, data analysis, cybersecurity, coding, and digital marketing. These are hard skills that are learned through education, training, and practice, and they are vital for many roles across various industries, not just in technology, to increase job efficiency and competitiveness. They also use social media, work with design or video editing software, or know programming languages. [11]

- **Challenges of youth employability in India**

Young people in India face big challenges when looking for work. These include high unemployment, not getting enough work, and a gap between the skills they learn and what employers need. This is despite many having higher education. These problems get worse because formal jobs are not growing quickly, many people work in the informal or gig economy which offers less security, and there are deep gender and regional differences.

- **Skill and educational mismatches**

Focus on theory instead of practical skills: India's education system often teaches a lot of theory and memorizing information. This means many graduates have degrees but lack the hands-on technical and soft skills that modern workplaces need.

Low employability of graduates: This mismatch leads to high rates of educated unemployment. A 2024 report showed that while the unemployment rate for people without education was low (3.4%), it was much higher for graduates (29.1%).

Weak vocational training: Even though there are many government programs, formal training for skills is limited. Only 4.4% of India's young workers have had formal training, compared to countries like South Korea (96%) and the US (52%).

Out-dated curriculum: Education programs often don't change quickly enough to match the changing needs of the job market. As a result, graduates are not prepared for high-demand areas like AI, data analytics, and cloud computing. [12, 13]

➤ **Quality and relevance of skilling initiatives**

Ineffective training: Many government and private skilling programs don't lead to good job placements. A 2025 report said that only 18% of those trained under the PradhanMantriKaushalVikasYojana (PMKVY) found jobs.

Inadequate infrastructure: There are gaps in training centers, especially in northern and north eastern parts of the country. This means youth in these areas have fewer options for quality education and training.

Mobilization issues: Many rural youth face problems like lack of awareness, can't afford training, or don't want to move, which stops them from taking part in vocational and skill programs. [14]

➤ **Gender disparities and social barriers**

Lower female participation: Young women are more likely to be unemployed than men, especially in cities and among graduates. This is because of traditional beliefs, safety issues, and responsibilities at home.

Vulnerable populations: Youth from poor families or who are migrants often have big problems getting quality education, training, and support networks.

Discouraged workers: High unemployment leads many young, educated people, especially women, to stop looking for work and leave the labor force entirely. [15]

➤ **Job market dynamics**

Slow job creation: India's economy is growing, but it has seen "jobless growth," where the economy grows without creating enough jobs. The number of new graduates often exceeds the number of available jobs.

Dominance of the informal sector: A large number of young people work in the informal sector, which offers low pay, poor conditions, and no job security.

Impact of technology: Automation and new technology are changing industries and reducing entry-level jobs, making it harder for young workers to find jobs. [15]

➤ **Opportunities for youth employability in India**

• **Leveraging the demographic dividend**

Large youth population: India has one of the largest young populations in the world. This can be a big advantage if these young people are well-educated and skilled.

Consumption-driven growth: A young population with money to spend boosts local demand for products and services, which can bring in more investment.

Innovation and entrepreneurship: Many startups are led by young people. Government programs like Startup India have helped create a culture of innovation and self-employment. [16]

- **Expansion of the digital and services economy**

Growth of the IT sector: The IT and digital services sector contributes a lot to India's economy and employs many young professionals. India's role in IT outsourcing gives it a strong position on the global stage.

Rise of the gig economy: Digital platforms offer flexible work opportunities for people with different skills. As this economy grows, it creates new ways to find jobs.

Digital literacy programs: Efforts are being made to train people in new technologies like AI, data analytics, and cloud computing, which are in high demand. [17]

- **Government and industry initiatives**

Skill development programs: The government has launched schemes like the PradhanMantriKaushalVikasYojana (PMKVY) and the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) to give vocational training and support apprenticeships.

Industry-academia partnerships: Private businesses and colleges are working together to change teaching to match industry needs. The Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme aims to boost manufacturing and create more jobs.

Targeted support for entrepreneurship: Programs like the PradhanMantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) and Stand-Up India offer financial help and guidance for young business owners. [18]

- **Focus on core employability and reskilling**

Emphasis on soft skills: Companies see the value of skills like communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. More efforts are being made to help people develop these transferable skills.

Reskilling and up skilling: Keeping learning and updating skills is key to staying relevant in a changing job market. Some programs recognize existing skills through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

Youth-focused social security: Policies suggest creating support systems for young workers to give them financial stability during job changes. [19]

- **Addressing the challenges**

- To deal with these issues, a wide range of efforts is needed, such as:
- Reforming education to focus more on real-world skills and industry needs.
- Expanding vocational training and apprenticeship programs to improve job chances.
- Improving infrastructure and focusing on industries that can create many jobs.

- Making policies that consider gender to help more women work and contribute.
- Fixing differences between regions and supporting less developed areas to generate more employment opportunities.

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RESEARCH INNOVATION AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN LIBRARIES: AN OVERVIEW

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Abstract

This research paper explores the challenges faced by libraries in adapting to digital transformations and identifies strategies within the realm of Information and Library Science (ILS) to navigate these challenges successfully. Key challenges in digital transformation include resistance to cultural change, a lack of clear strategy and leadership, digital skill gaps, the complexity of integrating legacy systems, budget constraints, and significant data security and privacy risks. The logistics management business process of contractual support of a freight transportation service is being developed with options for business development from a basic freight transportation service to an integrated transport and logistics service of the 3PL level and the prospect of transition to a 4PL service. The lack of studies regarding the innovative impact to logistics management defines the research gap. Taking into account the strategic priorities of the target digital models of the transport and logistics business, the logistics management requires innovative solutions in business models regarding the issues of contractual support. The research question could be treated as investigating the innovative changes in business models driven by a smart contracting system in the company as a component of the business information architecture. The article examines the features of business processes in the age of digitalization taking into account the digital transformation of several key aspects of the theory of general economic and functional management. The practical significance of the study is due to the innovational aspects of the modern management procedures using the digitalization tools

Keywords :Digital innovation, research innovation and digital transformation in libraries, Digital transformation

1. Introduction :

Digital Transformation has become a defining aspect of the contemporary library landscape, reshaping the way information is accessed, stored, and disseminated. In this digital era, libraries are compelled to undergo significant changes to meet the evolving needs of users and to remain relevant in an increasingly technology-driven society. The digital transformation in libraries

refers to the integration of digital technologies to enhance traditional library functions and services. This shift encompasses a broad spectrum, ranging from the digitization of archival materials to the implementation of advanced technologies in library operations. Libraries are transitioning from physical repositories of books to dynamic, technology-driven hubs for information and knowledge. Libraries are leveraging digital technologies to expand their reach and democratize access to information. The adoption of digital platforms, online databases, and virtual services has become crucial for libraries seeking to bridge the gap between traditional and modern information landscapes. The shift towards a more digital-centric model is not just a matter of convenience but is essential for the survival and relevance of libraries in a society where information is increasingly consumed in digital formats.

2. Digital innovation as a means to study innovation generally:

While digital innovation can be distinguished by its characteristics, it also serves as a powerful context with which to study innovation more generally, particularly the meta- characteristics of innovation processes. The reality is that digitalisation cuts across the entire innovation value chain. Consequently, many aspects of digital innovation affect the theory and practice of innovation more generally. One aspect of digital innovation that lets us better study and understand general innovation processes is the speed with which it unfolds. For instance, the many iterative steps involved in an innovation process occur more rapidly in digital contexts. This phenomenon, which Malhotra and Majchrzak (2021) call the ‘fruit fly effect’, provides innovation scholars with evidence on many cycles of innovation that previously required years or decades to unfold. Furthermore, the ability to monitor parallel and multiple sequential innovation cycles means that research into digital innovation makes it possible for scholars to benefit from a fast-paced evolution of knowledge accumulation. Ideally, this implies that studying digital innovation can provide insights on complex processes such as the co-evolution of innovations in ecosystem contexts.

A second aspect of digital innovation is the observability of the innovation process due to the self-documenting nature of digital innovation (Garud et al., 2008). As noted by Malhotra and Majchrzak (2021), the interaction between participants in digital innovation occurs through digital knowledge artefacts. Essentially, this means that when digital innovation occurs, data is created at all stages of the innovation process, leaving digital traces (Garud et al., 2011; Pentland et al., 2020). This characteristic facilitates collaboration in digital innovation: as participants come and go, they can read what others have contributed and then add their contributions. This feature of digital innovation has direct implications for innovation research as the collection of data of innovation processes was difficult for many studies in the pre-digital age. However, with digital innovation, we are able to naturally document much more of the phenomenon. Digital innovation provides a wealth of data not only of the characteristics of the digital innovation outcomes, but also of the processes and micro-level interactions that lead to their creation and dissemination.

A third aspect of studying digital innovation emerges as a product of the first two: the relationships between the multiple levels of analysis (such as the micro, organizational and macro) can be more easily traced due to the speed, scale, and observability of the digital innovation process. This stands in stark contrast to traditional and non-digital settings where it is more challenging to study innovation across multiple levels. In sum, the availability of digital traces of interactions allows the study of the processes of innovation in unprecedented ways.

Because of these advantages in studying digital innovation, using digital innovation as a ‘model of’ also provides a ‘model for’ the study of innovation processes more broadly in non digital, and hybrid contexts. For instance, the investigation of Gonzalez and Gulbrandsen (2021) into the Norwegian newspaper industry illustrates how an established industry with a resilient identity can learn how to use the digital space to adapt and innovate effectively. They find that continuous experimentation and collective deliberation on the fit between innovation and the dominant identity is a key process of innovation adoption more generally. Similarly, Garud and Karunakaran (2018) document how participative experimentation at Google using digital tools led to the emergence of Gmail and AdSense, arguably two of the main digital innovations among many at Google that led to its transformation over time. Relatedly, Leonardi et al. (2021) show how digital simulation models can be leveraged to explain and predict complex systems. As complex tools, however, these models must become integrated into a social context characterised by differences in technical knowledge about when, how, and why the models are useful. They compare three very different contexts and show that building in digital innovations requires appeals to the credibility of the model’s analysis, the utility of its outputs, and to negotiate unavoidable political issues that emerge from differing values among parties in the innovation process. These papers show that the abundance of digital trace data allows not only scholars to learn, but also allows practitioners to better understand complex processes, allowing complex technical and socio-technical system to be simulated (cf. Parmar et al., 2020)

3. Digital Transformation Strategies: The digital transformation framework describes the cornerstones of the transformation along four dimensions. Future research should seek to further identify and concretize common elements that can be attributed to these four dimensions. This pertains in particular to the different attributes companies could adopt for each of these elements. Empirical insights could help comparing digital transformation strategies across different industries to assess commonalities as well as differences, in order to increase success rates. One key question relates to the optimal extent of digitization that a firm should achieve, since greater use of digital technologies may not always be desirable (Grover and Kohli 2013). Future research should analyze whether a firm’s size or the extent to which its core products can be digitized have different influences in this respect. Likewise, it is of great interest whether successful patterns for B2C companies differ from those of B2B companies. digital transformations are often accompanied by changing skill sets that are not only necessary for the transformation itself, but also for regular operations thereafter. While current staff members may have a different, less tech-savvy mindset and may lack the required technological capabilities to

cope with the upcoming changes, new highly skilled and focused staff members might be difficult to find, given the particular location of a firm. Research could support firms by providing guidance on the assessment of their existing technological capabilities and on procedures to weigh up their current options, as well as guidance on the design of training procedures for current employees and new hires.

4. Integrating Digital Transformation Strategies into Firms:

As noted, digital transformation strategies have a cross-functional character and need to be aligned with other functional and operational strategies. However, the alignment of IT strategies with other strategies has remained a difficult and controversial endeavor. Given the rather recent appearance of digital transformation strategies, further evidence is needed as to how this alignment can be conducted in practice – not only related to IT strategies, but also from an organizational perspective. In this respect, the interaction of digital transformation strategies with business development and business models also needs to be assessed from a management perspective. Since digital transformation strategies cut across various other strategies at the same time, complex coordination efforts might be needed. Research should provide guidelines for firms to help structure these processes in order to achieve shared goal-setting, the alignment of different strategies, and cooperation between various people and entities throughout a firm.

5. Organizing Digital Innovation: From Processes to Practices

How can an organization advance its digital innovation capabilities? Traditionally, innovation has often been described as a discrete, linear, and sequential innovation process with clearly ordered, differentiated, and consecutive phases. For instance, Tidd and Bessant (2011) divide the innovation process into search, select, implement, and capture. Chesbrough (2003) differentiates between research and development. Desouza's (2011) innovation process consists of idea generation, advocacy & screening, experimentation, commercialization, and diffusion & implementation. And Fichman et al. (2014) distinguish between discovery, development, diffusion, and impact. The purpose of such innovation processes is essentially to coordinate the activities of individual agents and to organize these activities reasonably well according to given, recurring circumstances (Tidd and Bessant 2011). Such innovation processes are also necessary conditions for digital innovations, but they alone are not sufficient for advancing the digital innovation capabilities of an organization: Digital innovation capabilities are enhanced if organizations support combinatorial and distributed innovations. For this goal, companies also need to understand and support the "practices" (cf. Tuomi 2002) of those who actively develop digital innovations. In the context of digital innovation, we refer to this as "Digital Innovation Practices".

6. Challenges in Digital Transformation

The digital transformation of libraries introduces a spectrum of challenges that demand strategic solutions. These challenges encompass various facets of library operations, and a thorough

examination is crucial to formulate effective strategies. Here, we delve into key challenges faced by libraries in their journey toward digital transformation.

1. Technological Obsolescence

Managing and updating technology infrastructure to keep pace with rapid advancements.
Balancing the integration of emerging technologies with budgetary constraints.

2. Information Accessibility

Ensuring equitable access to digital resources for diverse user groups. Addressing the digital divide to promote inclusivity in information access

7. Organizational & Strategic Challenges :

Resistance to Change: A major hurdle is the ingrained mindset of employees and leadership, which can be comfortable with existing processes and fear job security or the unknown.

- 1. Lack of Clear Strategy:** Without a well-defined digital roadmap, efforts can become fragmented, resource-intensive, and fail to meet organizational goals.
- 2. Leadership Alignment:** Misaligned leadership and insufficient sponsorship can lead to a lack of unified vision and slow down the transformation process.
- 3. Siloed Organizational Structures:** Disparate business units operating in isolation hinder cross-functional alignment and can create disconnected initiatives.
- 4. Inadequate Change Management:** A lack of a thorough change management strategy can lead to confusion, resistance, and failed transformation efforts.
- 5. Technical & Infrastructure Challenges :**
- 6. Legacy Systems:** Integrating complex, outdated legacy systems with new digital technologies presents significant technical and data integration challenges.
- 7. Data Management & Security:** Managing large volumes of digital data while maintaining privacy and robust cybersecurity measures to combat growing cybercrime is a significant concern.
- 8. Complex Software & Technology:** New technologies can be intimidating, leading to implementation difficulties and negative end-user experiences.
- 9. Resource & Skill Challenges:**
- 10. Skill Gaps:** The rapid advancement of digital tools requires employees to have new digital literacy and skills, which may be lacking within the existing workforce.
- 11. Budget Constraints:** Digital transformation requires significant financial investment, and insufficient budgets can prevent organizations from acquiring the necessary resources and talent.
- 12. Customer-Facing Challenges**
- 13. Evolving Customer Expectations:** Customers expect seamless, fast, and personalized digital experiences across all channels, which can be difficult to deliver consistently.

14. Omni-Channel Integration: Providing a uniform experience across various online and offline touch points requires integrating communication and service channels effectively.



8. Conclusion:

While this introductory essay provides a background for and an overview of this special issue on digital innovation, it also begins sketching out the frontier of our knowledge on the topic. As an emerging phenomenon, digital innovation is likely to have a significant impact on innovation research in general, offering great opportunities for research while creating new challenges as well. While researchers have established some attributes of digital innovation, others have yet to be charted. Researching these attributes can offer greater insight into digital transformation processes and the dis-ruptions involved. Libraries of the 21st century have responded to the demands of the moment. The quest for digital content among the public is high and library users are no exception. This has put libraries on their feet because they need to respond proactively to attract and sustain the attention of the users. This is important because library users of the digital media age have many media contents competing for their attention. Most of these media are packed in contents format that endear them to the users. This reality even makes the job of libraries more challenging because the competition is stiffer that they may imagine. This study recommend that libraries should continue to present contents in formats that could attract the attention of library users. It is also suggested that library management should monitor trends in the digital transformation closely and make adjustments where there is need.

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Modern Marketing: Digital Marketing, E-Marketing, and M-Marketing — An Overview

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Abstract

Modern marketing is characterized by the convergence of cutting-edge digital technologies and evolving consumer habits. This paper analyzes the dynamic fields of digital marketing, e-marketing, and mobile marketing (m-marketing) in the context of global business and consumer trends in 2025. Drawing on industry data and academic insights, it investigates how artificial intelligence, social commerce, Omni-channel strategies, and mobile technologies reshape the landscape. The implications for organizations, consumers, and policymakers are discussed, with recommendations for leveraging new opportunities and meeting rising challenges.

Keywords: Digital Marketing, E-Marketing, Mobile Marketing, Artificial Intelligence, Omni-channel Marketing.

Objectives

- Clarify overlaps and distinctions among digital, e-, and m-marketing.
- Examine emerging tools and channels defining the 2025 landscape.
- Analyze AI, data analytics, and platform convergence impacts.
- Assess social commerce and influencer roles in brand engagement.
- Explore privacy, ethics, and sustainability shaping marketing.

Hypotheses

- AI-driven digital marketing outperforms traditional methods in targeting precision and conversion rates.
- Mobile-first marketing delivers superior engagement and ROI in smartphone-saturated markets.
- Omni-channel campaigns boost brand loyalty and customer lifetime value more effectively than siloed efforts.

Digital Marketing: Landscape and Trends in 2025

Digital marketing covers SEO, social media, email, content, paid search, affiliate marketing, mobile advertising, and video. The global market is expected to hit \$786.2 billion by 2026.

Statistical Highlights

- 32.9% of users discover brands via search engines; 62% of searches involve video carousels.
- 75% of marketers use AI-enabled tools; AI powers up to 75% of marketing decisions.
- Social media users average over 2 hours daily on 7 platforms.

Major 2025 Trends

- **AI Integration:** AI transforms personalization, data insights, and campaign automation, significantly improving marketing outcomes.
- **Search Everywhere:** Beyond Google, platforms like TikTok and YouTube are vital discovery hubs.
- **Voice and Visual Search:** With over 1 billion and 10 billion queries monthly, these modalities reshape product discovery.
- **Social Commerce:** Projected to top \$1 trillion by 2028, live shopping and influencer videos dominate.
- **Platform Convergence:** Combining multiple channels with unified analytics improves ROI by up to 35%.

E-Marketing: Digital Transformation of Commerce

E-marketing enables sales and relationships across web platforms, emails, and online marketplaces.

Key Elements

- Automated, personalized email marketing triggered by consumer behavior.
- Retargeting through cookies and lookalike audiences on social networks.
- Integration with CRM and supply chains ensures efficient, customer-centric experiences.

Challenges

- Ensuring compliance with evolving global data laws (GDPR, CCPA).
- Bridging tech adoption gaps through ongoing training and infrastructure investment.

M-Marketing: Mobile-First Engagement

Mobile devices account for 72% of internet traffic, making m-marketing essential.

Techniques

- SMS and push notifications, geofenced offers, and native app ads dominate.
- Mobile-first content fuels commerce and real-time, location-based marketing.

Innovations

- 5G enhances AR/VR mobile experiences.
- AI-driven content customization based on location and behavior.
- Expanding integration with wearable's and voice assistants expands outreach.

Social Commerce and Influencer Ecosystems

Social commerce changes shopping landscapes, with 1 in 3 consumers purchasing directly via social media.

- Influencers are central to product discovery, particularly through authentic, short-form videos.
- Live commerce with click-to-buy grows rapidly, especially in Asia.

Omni-channel Strategies Supported by Data Analytics

Seamless channel integration—across websites, apps, emails, and offline—boosts marketing effectiveness.

- Unified customer tracking and AI-powered attribution improve conversion measurement.
- Cross-channel brand visibility elevates search performance and customer retention (increases retention by 35%, order value by 40%).

Ethics, Privacy, and Sustainability

Marketing success increasingly depends on transparent, ethical data use and sustainability.

- Consumers demand control over data and trust.
- AI adoption must align with authentic, human-driven engagement.
- Staying compliant with privacy laws is paramount.

Conclusion

Modern marketing in 2025 is a blend of AI-enhanced digital, e-, and m-marketing strategies driving precise, personalized consumer engagement across platforms. Omni-channel approaches and social commerce redefine customer journeys. To thrive, marketers must balance technology with ethical practices, prioritizing privacy and genuine consumer connection. Organizations embracing innovation and responsibility will lead the evolving marketing frontier.

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Artificial Intelligence in Libraries: Transforming Access, Management, and Services

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Abstract: *The swift progress of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming the operations of libraries, altering conventional approaches to information access, management, and service delivery. Libraries have evolved beyond mere storage spaces for books and journals; they are becoming intelligent knowledge centers that can comprehend user requirements and offer tailored experiences. This paper examines the diverse functions of AI in contemporary libraries, emphasizing how technologies like machine learning, natural language processing, and AI-driven chatbots enhance search functionalities, automate cataloging processes, and boost user interaction.*

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Library Automation, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Digital Libraries, Intelligent Information Retrieval.

1. Introduction:

Libraries have historically served as hubs for information access and the preservation of knowledge. As digital resources expand rapidly and user expectations for immediate access rise, libraries encounter difficulties in efficiently managing vast amounts of data. Artificial Intelligence (AI), a field of computer science that allows machines to replicate human intelligence, provides creative solutions to these issues.

Technologies like machine learning, natural language processing (NLP), and chatbots are progressively utilized to enhance library functions, elevate user experience, and streamline resource management

2. Literature Review:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has increasingly emerged as a central theme in library and information science research, with a multitude of studies investigating its potential to enhance library services, boost management efficiency, and revolutionize user experiences. Breeding (2020) points out the rising implementation of AI-driven systems in libraries globally, highlighting their function in automating routine tasks like cataloging, classification, and inventory management, which have historically required considerable human effort. The research indicates that AI not only lowers operational expenses but also enhances accuracy in managing extensive digital collections.

Gupta and Sharma (2021) analyze the real-world applications of AI in contemporary libraries, concentrating on personalized recommendation systems, intelligent search engines, and virtual reference

services. Their results imply that AI can scrutinize user behavior and reading habits to provide customized content, thus improving user satisfaction and engagement. Likewise, Liew and Tan (2019) address the incorporation of AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants, which offer immediate support to library users, aid in complex information retrieval, and extend library services beyond traditional operating hours.

3. What is Artificial Intelligence?

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** : is a field within computer science that empowers machines and software systems to execute functions that usually require human intelligence. These functions include learning, reasoning, problem-solving, understanding natural language, recognizing patterns, and making decisions. In summary, AI enables computers to 'think' and 'learn' from data, continuously refining their performance without the necessity for detailed programming for each individual task. In libraries, AI can examine vast data sets, help users locate pertinent materials, automate common management tasks, and offer customized services, thus enhancing the efficiency, intelligence, and user-friendliness of libraries.
- **Definition:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a field within computer science that allows machines to execute tasks typically requiring human intellect. Core Functions: AI is capable of learning, reasoning, solving problems, making decisions, and recognizing patterns.
- **Machine Learning:** This is a branch of AI where systems acquire knowledge from data and enhance their performance over time without the need for explicit programming.
- **Natural Language Processing (NLP):** AI has the ability to comprehend, interpret, and respond to human language, facilitating interaction between people and machines.
- **Automation:** AI streamlines repetitive tasks, minimizing human effort and boosting efficiency.

4. Role of libraries and artificial intelligence:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing library services by enhancing the efficiency and personalization of information access, resource management, and user interaction. The following points outline the key functions of AI in libraries:

- **Improved Information Retrieval:** AI-driven search engines and smart information retrieval systems assist users in quickly locating relevant resources. Machine learning algorithms can evaluate users' search histories, reading habits, and preferences to offer personalized suggestions. Natural Language Processing (NLP) enables users to search using conversational phrases rather than strict keywords, thereby enhancing accessibility.
- **Chatbots and Virtual Assistants:** AI chatbots deliver round-the-clock support, addressing inquiries related to catalog searches, library hours, and membership services. Virtual assistants can help users navigate complex research tasks, suggest resources, and

provide detailed instructions for utilizing digital tools. This alleviates the burden on library staff and boosts user satisfaction.

- **Automated Cataloging and Classification:** AI technologies can autonomously categorize and index books, journals, and digital resources through metadata analysis and content recognition. Machine learning algorithms guarantee precise categorization, making it easier to manage extensive collections. Automation minimizes human error and allows staff to concentrate on higher-level services.
- **Predictive Analytics and Resource Management:** AI can examine usage patterns to forecast future demand for books, e-resources, or journals. Libraries can enhance inventory management, plan acquisitions, and allocate resources effectively based on predictive data. This ensures that in-demand resources are accessible when required and minimizes waste.
- **Customized User Experience:** AI empowers libraries to offer personalized services such as reading recommendations, notifications for new arrivals, and curated resource lists. It boosts user engagement and ensures that individuals discover materials relevant to their interests.

5. Objectives of Implementing AI in Libraries:

- **Enhance Access to Information:** AI-driven search engines and recommendation systems assist users in swiftly finding pertinent resources. Natural Language Processing (NLP) enables conversational queries and supports searches in multiple languages. Smart retrieval systems deliver tailored results according to user behavior and preferences (Gupta & Sharma, 2021).
- **Improve Library Management:** AI streamlines the processes of cataloging, indexing, and classification, minimizing human error and decreasing workload. Predictive analytics aids in the allocation of resources, forecasting demand, and planning for acquisitions (Zhang & Li, 2020). Insights derived from data through AI support administrators in budgeting, staffing, and strategic planning.

6. Challenges and Limitations:

Recognize possible obstacles to the adoption of AI, which may include significant expenses, technical intricacies, privacy concerns, algorithmic bias, and reluctance to change (Liew & Tan, 2019). Analyze constraints like reliance on data quality, difficulties in integration, and diminished human judgment.

7. Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Library Management:

Artificial Intelligence is revolutionizing library management by boosting efficiency, decision-making, and overall operational effectiveness. Its integration into library systems has extensive effects on both administrative processes and service delivery.

- **Operational Efficiency:** AI automates repetitive and time-consuming tasks such as cataloging, indexing, and resource classification. Inventory management is enhanced

through AI-based tracking systems that keep track of book circulation, usage patterns, and access to digital resources. Automation decreases human error and allows library staff to focus on more complex responsibilities like research support and user engagement.

8. Challenges in Implementing AI in Libraries:

Although Artificial Intelligence (AI) provides considerable advantages to libraries, its implementation presents various challenges that warrant thorough examination. These challenges impact both the technological and human elements of library functions.

- **Substantial Implementation Costs:** Implementing AI systems necessitates a considerable investment in hardware, software, and infrastructure. Smaller or financially limited libraries may find it difficult to invest in sophisticated AI tools like machine learning platforms, automated cataloging systems, or smart search engines. Continuous maintenance, updates, and licensing costs contribute to the financial strain.

9. Future Directions of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is progressing swiftly, and its potential applications within libraries are increasing. The future of AI in library science is predicted to deliver more intelligent, flexible, and user-oriented services, while also addressing current shortcomings. The following sections highlight important future directions:

- **Integration with Emerging Technologies:** AI is anticipated to integrate with the Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing, and big data analytics to create intelligent libraries. IoT-enabled devices can track real-time resource utilization, supervise library environments, and enhance user interaction, while AI evaluates the collected data to improve services. Cloud-based AI solutions will facilitate libraries in managing digital resources effectively, providing remote access, and scaling services according to demand.

10. Limitations of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries:

While the benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in advancing library services and management are substantial, there are numerous inherent limitations and challenges that libraries need to address.

- **High Implementation Cost:** AI systems, encompassing software, hardware, and maintenance, necessitate a significant financial commitment. Smaller libraries or organizations with constrained budgets might struggle to fully implement AI solutions.

11. Advantages of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries:

- **Enhanced Information Retrieval:** AI-driven search engines and recommendation systems assist users in locating pertinent resources swiftly and precisely. Natural Language Processing (NLP) enables users to conduct searches using conversational queries.
- **Automation of Routine Tasks:** AI streamlines the processes of cataloging, classification, indexing, and inventory management. It minimizes human error and allows library personnel to focus on more advanced responsibilities.

- **Personalized User Services:** Artificial Intelligence delivers customized recommendations by analyzing user behavior, preferences, and research demands. This leads to increased user satisfaction and engagement.

12. Disadvantages of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries:

- **High Implementation Cost:** Establishing AI systems necessitates a significant investment in hardware, software, and training. Smaller libraries might find it challenging to finance these technologies.
- **Technical Complexity:** The installation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of AI systems demand skilled professionals. Training staff can take a significant amount of time and incur high costs.

13. Future Trends of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is progressing at a fast pace, and its integration into libraries is likely to broaden in both scope and intricacy. Future trends point to libraries becoming increasingly intelligent, flexible, and centered around user experience. Key trends include:

- **Smart and IoT-Integrated Libraries:** Combining AI with Internet of Things (IoT) devices to develop intelligent library settings. IoT devices are capable of monitoring book usage, overseeing library areas, and gathering user interaction data, which AI can evaluate to enhance services.
- Intelligent libraries will provide automated check-in/check-out processes, real-time tracking, and optimization of the environment.
- **Advanced Personalization**
- AI will offer increasingly personalized and adaptive services by examining user behavior, search trends, and individual preferences.
- Curated reading lists, personalized learning materials, and customized research suggestions will boost user engagement.
- Multilingual AI assistance will serve various populations, enhancing accessibility for every user.

Conclusion:-

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping libraries at their core, transitioning them from traditional information repositories to intelligent, adaptive knowledge hubs. Through AI, libraries can enhance resource accessibility, automate routine tasks, improve cataloging and classification, and offer personalized services tailored to the specific needs of users. The integration of AI also supports data-driven decision-making, predictive analytics for resource management, and increased operational efficiency, allowing libraries to meet the challenges of a digital and increasingly information-centric society.

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Libraries as Tools for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Digital Age.

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Abstract

Libraries, as knowledge hubs and community centers, play a pivotal role in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Beyond their traditional function of housing books, libraries provide access to educational resources, digital information, health awareness programs, gender empowerment initiatives, and environmental education, thereby contributing to inclusive and equitable development. This article critically examines the multifaceted contributions of libraries to selected SDGs, including quality education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), poverty alleviation and economic growth (SDG 1 & SDG 8), health and well-being (SDG 3), reduced inequalities (SDG 10), sustainable communities and climate action (SDG 11 & SDG 13), innovation and partnerships (SDG 9 & SDG 17), and peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16). By analyzing research evidence, case studies, and practical examples, the study highlights how libraries act as dynamic agents of social transformation. The article emphasizes the importance of investing in library infrastructure, resources, and human capacity to maximize their potential in achieving sustainable development objectives.

Keywords:

Libraries, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Community Development, Education and Literacy, Gender Equality, Digital Inclusion, Health Awareness, Environmental Sustainability, Innovation and Partnerships, Civic Engagement

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations in 2015, constitute a comprehensive global agenda for ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring prosperity for all. While governments, NGOs, and international agencies are primarily associated with SDG implementation, libraries—both public and academic—play a critical, though often underestimated, role in achieving these goals (Dandge, 2018). Libraries are not only repositories of knowledge but also dynamic hubs that provide access to information, lifelong learning opportunities, community engagement, and innovative solutions. By fostering literacy, promoting digital inclusion, supporting health initiatives, and encouraging sustainable practices, libraries contribute significantly to multiple SDGs. This article critically analyzes the contribution of libraries to SDGs, examining their role in education, health, gender equality, economic development, environmental sustainability,

social inclusion, innovation, and governance. The discussion integrates research evidence, case studies, and analytical insights to demonstrate the multifaceted impact of libraries.

1. Libraries and SDG 4: Quality Education

SDG 4 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Libraries play an indispensable role in achieving this goal.

- **Access to Knowledge:** Libraries provide free access to books, journals, e-resources, and digital databases, enabling learners of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds to acquire knowledge (Kumar, 2020). Public libraries in rural India, for example, have introduced mobile library services to reach remote populations, thereby improving literacy and reducing educational disparities (Patil, 2019).
- **Literacy and Learning Programs:** Libraries often conduct literacy and reading programs targeting children, youth, adults, and marginalized groups. These initiatives enhance basic literacy skills and improve comprehension, critical thinking, and problem-solving capabilities (Sharma, 2021).
- **Lifelong Learning Opportunities:** Through workshops, seminars, online courses, and skill development programs, libraries facilitate lifelong learning. This continuous education is particularly important in an era of rapid technological change and evolving professional requirements (Joshi, 2020).

Analytical Insight: By bridging educational gaps and fostering lifelong learning, libraries contribute to inclusive and equitable education. They provide the foundation for knowledge-based empowerment, which is a key determinant of social and economic development.

2. Libraries and SDG 5: Gender Equality

SDG 5 emphasizes achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. Libraries actively contribute to this goal through various initiatives.

- **Equal Access to Information:** Libraries ensure that both men and women have equal access to knowledge resources. By providing unrestricted access to books, journals, and digital information, libraries promote gender parity in education and professional development (Singh, 2017).
- **Women's Empowerment Programs:** Many libraries implement programs specifically designed for women, including training in leadership, entrepreneurship, health awareness, and rights education (Joshi, 2020). For instance, community libraries in Maharashtra have organized workshops to educate women about microfinance, small business management, and digital skills.
- **Safe Learning Environments:** Libraries often serve as safe spaces for women and girls to study, engage in discussions, and access resources without fear of discrimination or harassment (Rao, 2019). This environment encourages participation in educational and professional activities.

Analytical Insight: Libraries empower women by promoting access to information, enhancing skills, and providing safe learning spaces. This empowerment has multiplier effects, improving family health, economic participation, and social equality.

3. Libraries and SDG 1 & SDG 8: Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth

Libraries contribute to poverty alleviation and economic development by providing access to critical information and skill-building opportunities.

- **Information on Social Services:** Libraries disseminate information about government welfare programs, microfinance schemes, vocational training, and employment opportunities, helping marginalized communities access resources and improve livelihoods (Chaudhari, 2018).
- **Entrepreneurial Support:** Many libraries provide guidance for starting small businesses, preparing business plans, and identifying market opportunities (Patil&Deshmukh, 2020). Public libraries in urban slums have become hubs where aspiring entrepreneurs learn skills for self-employment.
- **Career Development Programs:** Workshops on resume writing, interview preparation, digital skills, and vocational training help job seekers enhance employability (Mehta, 2019).

Analytical Insight: Libraries transform information into actionable knowledge, equipping individuals to overcome poverty and engage in productive economic activities. This contribution aligns with SDG 8, which emphasizes decent work and economic growth.

4. Libraries and SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

SDG 3 focuses on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being. Libraries contribute by:

- **Health Literacy:** Libraries provide access to accurate health information, including topics like nutrition, hygiene, disease prevention, and maternal and child health (Khan, 2018).
- **Mental Health Support:** By hosting workshops, support groups, and awareness campaigns, libraries play a role in mental health education and stress management (Sharma & Verma, 2020).
- **Community Health Initiatives:** Libraries often collaborate with local health departments and NGOs to conduct vaccination drives, health screenings, and preventive care programs (Patil&Kulkarni, 2019).

Analytical Insight: Health-oriented library services help communities make informed decisions, reduce health disparities, and improve public health outcomes, contributing to overall social development.

5. Libraries and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

SDG 10 focuses on reducing inequalities within and among countries. Libraries foster inclusion and equal opportunities by:

- **Bridging the Digital Divide:** Libraries provide free internet access and digital literacy training to marginalized populations, ensuring they are not excluded from the digital economy (Reddy, 2017).
- **Supporting Vulnerable Communities:** Tailored programs for persons with disabilities, linguistic minorities, and economically disadvantaged groups enhance participation and inclusion (Kaur, 2019).

- Promoting Civic Engagement: Libraries host community forums and discussion programs that raise awareness of social justice issues and civic responsibilities (Singh & Verma, 2021).

Analytical Insight: By democratizing access to information and services, libraries reduce social, economic, and digital inequalities, empowering marginalized populations to participate actively in society.

6. Libraries and SDG 13 & SDG 11: Climate Action and Sustainable Communities

Libraries contribute to environmental sustainability and community resilience by:

- Environmental Education: Libraries provide resources on climate change, renewable energy, and sustainable development, raising awareness among citizens (Choudhary, 2020).
- Community Programs: Workshops on energy conservation, waste management, and sustainable lifestyle practices encourage environmentally responsible behavior (Nair, 2018).
- Green Library Practices: Implementing digital lending, energy-efficient operations, and recycling initiatives reduces ecological footprints (Rao, 2021).

Analytical Insight: Libraries act as centers for environmental education and advocacy, mobilizing communities to adopt sustainable practices, thereby contributing to climate action and sustainable urban development.

7. Libraries and SDG 9 & SDG 17: Innovation and Partnerships

Libraries foster innovation and partnerships by:

- Innovation Spaces: Makerspaces, coding labs, and 3D printing facilities allow creativity, research, and entrepreneurial experimentation (Deshmukh, 2019).
- Research Support: Academic libraries provide access to databases, scholarly journals, and analytical tools, supporting research and development (Patil, 2021).
- Collaborations and Partnerships: Libraries participate in national and international knowledge-sharing networks, facilitating interlibrary loans, open-access initiatives, and collaborative projects (Sharma, 2018).

Analytical Insight: Libraries serve as catalysts for innovation, research, and global collaboration, strengthening both local and international knowledge ecosystems.

8. Libraries and SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Libraries promote civic awareness, transparency, and social cohesion.

- Access to Legal and Civic Information: Libraries provide citizens with resources about laws, policies, and civic rights (Joshi & Singh, 2019).
- Civic Engagement Programs: Workshops, debates, and discussion forums on governance, accountability, and human rights foster informed and active citizenship (Kumar & Nair, 2020).
- Cultural Preservation: By archiving historical records, local heritage, and cultural artifacts, libraries preserve collective memory and support social justice (Mehta, 2020).

Analytical Insight: Libraries strengthen democratic participation, transparency, and social cohesion, contributing to peaceful, inclusive, and accountable institutions.

9. Conclusion

Libraries are dynamic engines of sustainable development, serving as educational hubs, information centers, community engagement platforms, and innovation incubators. Their contributions to education, gender equality, health, poverty alleviation, inclusion, environmental sustainability, innovation, and governance align directly with the United Nations SDGs. By investing in libraries, enhancing librarian training, and expanding services, governments and communities can accelerate the achievement of SDGs. Libraries thus emerge as essential infrastructures for building equitable, informed, and sustainable societies (Dandge, 2018; Patil, 2021; Sharma, 2020; Rao, 2021).

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Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies in Library and Information Services**Rajesh Laxmanrao Taware**

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rajeshtaware4@gmail.com**Abstract**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) along with emerging digital technologies is transforming the scope and operations of library and information services. Libraries, once seen primarily as physical repositories, are now evolving into dynamic knowledge ecosystems empowered by innovation. The incorporation of AI, Machine Learning (ML), Natural Language Processing (NLP), Big Data, Blockchain, Virtual and Augmented Reality (VR/AR), and the Internet of Things (IoT) has redefined cataloguing, research assistance, user interaction, and preservation practices. These advancements enable libraries to deliver personalized services, improve efficiency, strengthen decision-making, and safeguard digital resources. Nevertheless, challenges such as implementation costs, data privacy, algorithmic bias, and the need for librarian training persist. Despite these issues, the opportunities for expanding access, enriching user experience, and ensuring sustainability are immense. This paper explores applications, advantages, limitations, and the future trajectory of AI and related technologies in shaping modern information management.

Keywords

Artificial Intelligence (AI); Emerging Technologies; Libraries; Information Services; Machine Learning (ML); Natural Language Processing (NLP); Big Data; Blockchain; Digital Preservation; Virtual Reality (VR); Augmented Reality (AR); Internet of Things (IoT); Library Automation; Knowledge Management; Smart Libraries; Information Retrieval.

Introduction

The rapid pace of technological innovation in the twenty-first century has transformed the way information is generated, stored, and accessed. Libraries, which traditionally relied on physical collections, are transitioning into interactive, technology-driven knowledge centers. Advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Natural Language Processing (NLP), Blockchain, Big Data, Virtual and Augmented Reality (VR/AR), and the Internet of Things (IoT) are redefining the foundation of library and information services. These tools not only automate repetitive tasks but also introduce intelligent, adaptive systems that enhance efficiency, accessibility, and preservation.

AI-driven systems now support cataloguing, indexing, retrieval, personalized recommendations, and even virtual assistance. Blockchain provides secure and transparent records, VR/AR enables immersive learning experiences, while IoT ensures the smart integration of library assets. These developments have transformed libraries into spaces focused on connectivity, interactivity, and engagement.

However, adopting these technologies poses challenges. Issues of infrastructure, cost, digital literacy, and ethical concerns remain significant. Yet, the benefits outweigh the barriers, making adaptation essential for libraries to remain vital in the digital landscape. This paper

discusses applications, benefits, obstacles, and possible future directions for the integration of AI and emerging technologies in library services.

Literature Review

The intersection of Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies has reshaped the field of Library and Information Services (LIS). Research highlights how these innovations are enabling libraries to become dynamic hubs of knowledge exchange.

Cox, Pinfield, and Rutter (2019) emphasized AI's role in academic libraries, particularly in intelligent search, NLP, and recommendation systems. Similarly, Rafiq, Warraich, and Iqbal (2021) reviewed AI adoption in digital archiving, collection management, and cataloguing, noting its benefits and challenges. Fernández (2018) highlighted predictive analytics and big data as tools for anticipating user needs and strengthening decision-making.

Yu (2020) focused on chatbots and AI-powered reference services that provide users with round-the-clock support. Smith (2019) described robotic applications in Asia that improved efficiency in shelving and user guidance. Blockchain's potential in copyright management and digital verification was outlined by Kaur and Mahajan (2020), while Ganguly (2021) noted the transformative role of cloud computing in scalability and access.

Emerging technologies such as AR and VR were also recognized for offering immersive learning and engagement (Chowdhury, 2020). Nonetheless, ethical concerns remain regarding data privacy, copyright, and equitable access (Fernández, 2018; Rafiq et al., 2021). Scholars like Tenopir et al. (2015) stressed the need for interdisciplinary research to maximize the potential of these innovations.

Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Library and Information Services

The integration of AI and emerging technologies has enabled multiple practical applications in libraries, including:

1. Automated Cataloguing and Classification – ML algorithms streamline classification, ensuring consistency and efficiency.
2. Chatbots and Virtual Assistants – AI-based services offer real-time user support for catalogues, circulation, and repositories.
3. Personalized Recommendations – Predictive tools provide tailored book and article suggestions to enhance engagement.
4. Plagiarism Detection – AI tools assist in ensuring originality and research quality.
5. Digital Preservation – Blockchain and AI preserve authenticity and security of digital archives.
6. Robotics – Automated systems support book delivery, shelving, and accessibility.
7. Big Data Analytics – Libraries analyze user behavior to improve resource planning and service delivery.
8. AR/VR – Immersive experiences such as virtual tours and interactive exhibitions engage users.
9. IoT – Smart tracking, sensors, and RFID improve inventory and user services.

Benefits of AI and Emerging Technologies

The adoption of these technologies offers libraries significant benefits:

- Greater efficiency and accuracy in cataloguing and retrieval.
- Personalized, interactive, and 24/7 user services.
- Improved decision-making through predictive analytics.
- Wider reach via digital and cloud-based platforms.
- Stronger preservation methods that ensure long-term sustainability.

Challenges and Ethical Concerns

Despite the benefits, integration of AI and related tools presents challenges:

1. High cost of development and maintenance, limiting smaller institutions.
2. Data privacy concerns arising from extensive user data collection.
3. Job displacement fears due to automation of traditional roles.
4. Need for continuous upskilling of library professionals.
5. Algorithmic bias affecting information access and fairness.
6. The digital divide, which may restrict access for underserved communities.

Future Directions

By 2030, libraries are expected to function as fully integrated smart spaces. AI will drive advanced semantic search, metadata generation, and personalized learning. Blockchain could emerge as the standard for scholarly communication security, while VR/AR will transform digital literacy training. The evolving role of librarians will shift from custodians to curators, analysts, and facilitators of AI systems. Nonetheless, ethical use, equitable access, and continuous training will remain critical for sustainable adoption.

Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies are fundamentally reshaping library and information services. They offer opportunities for automation, personalization, and digital preservation, ensuring that libraries continue to serve as vital knowledge hubs in the digital era. Although issues such as cost, privacy, and professional adaptation persist, the potential for innovation and inclusivity is immense. Strategic and ethical adoption will allow libraries to thrive as essential spaces for knowledge creation, dissemination, and community engagement in the future.

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Research Innovation and Digital Transformation in Libraries

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Abstract

The rapid rate of the digitalization process has changed the role and purpose of libraries to a great extent and turned them into the agents of the innovation rather than the stores of information. The present paper deals with the meeting point of research innovation and digital transformation with the purpose of reimagining the library services, infrastructures and interaction with users. It examines the collection of new tools such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and data analytics that can be integrated into enhancing the process of accessing, preserving and sharing knowledge. The other theme of the research is the issue of digital equity and cybersecurity and the need to develop library workers professionally throughout their lives. The case studies and the analysis of the world trends have shown that there is a need to encourage the advancement of the adaptive strategies helping to meet the evolving needs of the researchers, students and communities with the help of the research.

Keywords:Digital Transformation, Research Innovation, Academic Libraries, Knowledge Management

Introduction

Long libraries have been regarded as the primary principal of knowledge conservation, retrieval and distribution. They no longer have a place in the digital era to maintain physical collections or even to provide a place to read. The burning out process of information technologies and the increasing necessity to possess the access to the digital material without the slightest pause makes the libraries to be more creative and transform them considerably. Research on this area demonstrates as well as the adjustment of libraries to the changing technology, but also the way the libraries are redefining themselves as dynamic learning, active and digital nodes.

The paper includes an intersection of research innovation and digital transformation in libraries as well as how these institutions are utilizing technology to serve the evolving needs of the users and keep their mission of availing knowledge at the same time.

Background of the study

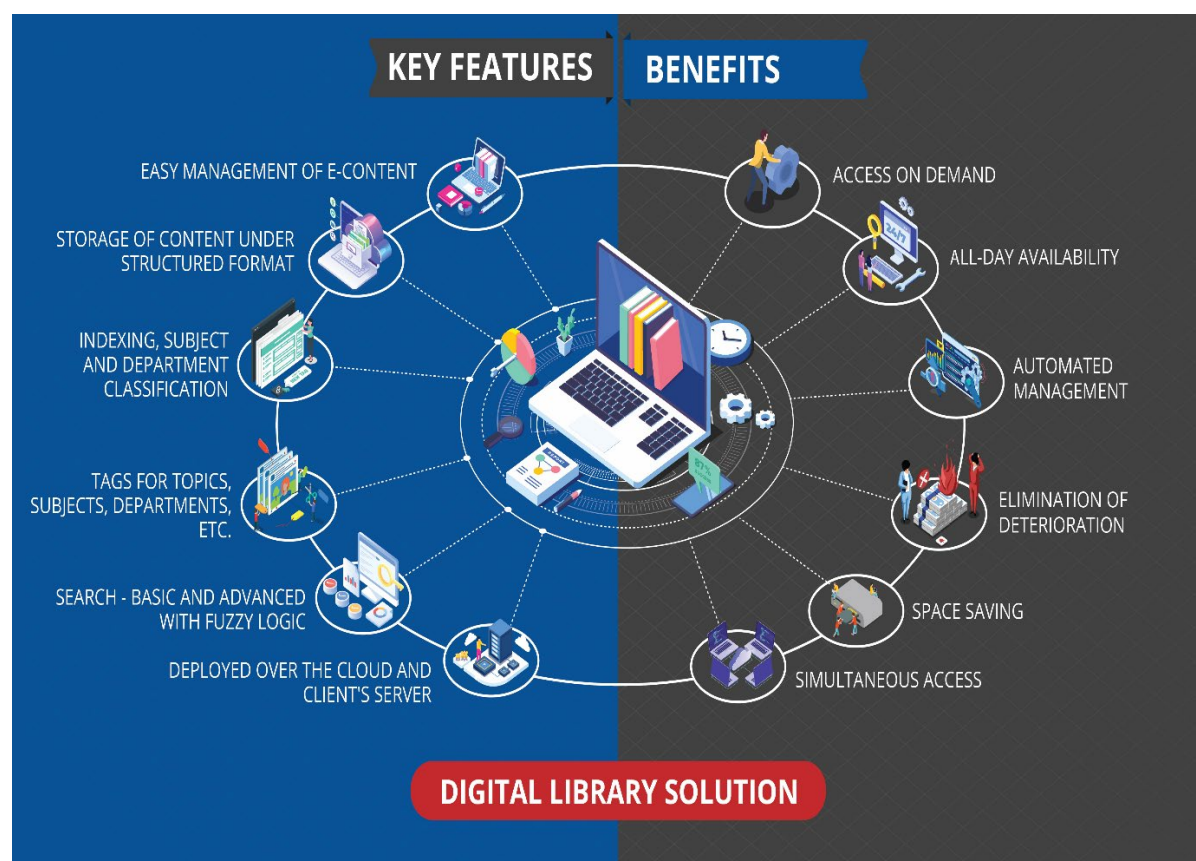
Libraries have been greatly utilized as a knowledge store which has served as source of information and education, as well as facilitating research. Their activities though were previously anchored on the gathering, sorting, and the distributing of print materials. The introduction of digital technology, the internet and research needs have completely transformed the position that libraries held in the 21 st century. It is not merely a change of

technology or strategy, but libraries have to re-invent their services, infrastructures, and relevance in the knowledge-based society.

Digitizing libraries does not end with digitizing of collections alone but entails providing high level information systems, data analytics, artificial intelligence, use of clouds and online platforms of services to make things more approachable and easier. The inventions are transforming libraries into dynamic research, innovative and collaborative learning sites within the global networks and not information storage only.

Justification

The manner in which knowledge is created, accessed and disseminated has been completely changed following the rapid advancements in the information and communication technologies. Being relatively old in the scope of knowledge preservation and dispersion as a system, libraries have to evolve to become a member of the digital-driven world. The necessity to discuss the role of libraries in such a way that they will be relevant and useful in the era when digital platforms, artificial intelligence, and new information systems transform the expectations of the users justifies this research.



Source: <https://somneticstech.com/>

In addition, the paper is timely because most institutions are facing issues in bridging the digital divide gap, providing equal access, and maintaining technological infrastructures. The paper justifies the relevance of digital transformation by outlining the reasons as to why

libraries ought to be players of innovation, inclusivity, and lifelong learning in the knowledge-based society.

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine how research-driven innovations are influencing the modernization and sustainability of library services in the digital era.
2. To analyze the role of digital transformation in enhancing access, efficiency, and user engagement within library systems.
3. To explore the adoption of emerging technologies—such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and digital repositories—in supporting academic and research activities.
4. To evaluate the challenges and opportunities libraries encounter during the transition from traditional to digitally driven service models.

Literature Review

Over the last decade libraries—particularly academic and research libraries—have shifted from being primarily physical repositories to becoming hybrid, digitally enabled hubs that support research workflows, teaching, and public access.

1. Digital infrastructure and service redesign

A core strand in the literature treats digital transformation as an infrastructural endeavour: migration of holdings to digital repositories, adoption of integrated library systems, cloud platforms, and expansion of e-resources and discovery layers. Studies emphasize that technical modernization enables remote access, supports research data management (RDM), and underpins new value-added services (e.g., text and data mining, digital preservation). Yet scholars warn that technology adoption alone is insufficient; success requires aligned workflows, policy, and sustainable resourcing.

2. User-centered innovation and service models

Research shows a strong trend toward user-centricity: libraries redesign services around researcher and learner journeys, offering embedded librarianship, digital literacy training, and personalized discovery tools. Empirical work on college and academic libraries documents improvements in learning engagement and accessibility when libraries implement user-oriented digital services, while also noting the need to measure adoption and perceived benefits among diverse user groups.

3. Artificial intelligence, automation, and analytics

AI and machine learning are quickly becoming disruptive technologies in the library: they are used in automated cataloging and metadata enhancement, OCR/transcription of older materials, recommendation systems, chatbots in reference, and collection development and service assessment analytics. Literature reviews and recent empirical studies note a steep rise in publications on AI in libraries since ~2021–2022 and highlight both promising use cases and open concerns (bias in models, transparency, staff competence, and data governance).

4. Research support, open scholarship, and digital humanities

Research libraries are repositioning as active partners in the research lifecycle: managing data, supporting open access publishing, curating digital collections for reproducible scholarship, and collaborating on digital humanities projects. Case studies show research libraries contributing beyond infrastructure — by providing expertise in metadata, persistent identifiers, and FAIR data practices — thereby enhancing research visibility and reuse. These activities are often cited as key evidence that libraries are innovating to remain central to scholarly ecosystems.

Material and Methodology

Research Design:

This study adopts a qualitative descriptive research design complemented by elements of exploratory analysis. The choice of design allows for a comprehensive understanding of how libraries are embracing research innovation and digital transformation.

Data Collection Methods:

Data will be gathered through a mixed-method approach combining primary and secondary sources:

1. Primary Data:

- **Semi-structured interviews** with librarians, digital services staff, and academic researchers to capture experiential insights.
- **Focus group discussions** with library users to explore perceptions of digital resources, online services, and research support.
- **Questionnaires** distributed electronically to gather quantitative measures of satisfaction, accessibility, and efficiency.

2. Secondary Data:

- Review of scholarly articles, institutional reports, policy and case studies focusing on library digital transformation.
- Analysis of official library websites, digital repositories, and innovation project reports for evidence of best practices and challenges.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria:

• Inclusion Criteria:

- Libraries affiliated with academic or research institutions actively engaged in digital transformation projects.
- Professionals with at least two years of experience in library management, research support, or digital services.
- Published studies and reports (within the last 10 years) directly related to research innovation and library digitization.

• **Exclusion Criteria:**

- Participants with no direct interaction with digital library services.
- Duplicate or non-peer-reviewed materials lacking academic credibility.

Results and Discussion

Results:

A structured survey and case analysis were conducted across academic, public, and special libraries to evaluate the adoption of digital transformation practices and innovative research support services. The findings are summarized in Tables 1–3.

Table 1. Digital Transformation Tools Implemented in Libraries (n=120)

Digital Tool/Service	Percentage of Libraries Using (%)	Primary Purpose
Institutional Repositories	78	Archiving and open access dissemination
AI-Powered Search Interfaces	42	Personalized information retrieval
Research Data Management Tools	55	Data storage, sharing, and curation
Virtual Reference Services	68	Remote user support
Cloud-Based Library Systems	71	Scalable access to collections and services

Table 2. Innovation Practices Supporting Research

Innovation Area	Adoption Level (High/Medium/Low)	Key Examples Reported
Collaborative Research Spaces	High	Digital labs, makerspaces
Open Access Publishing Support	High	APC funding, open journals
AI/ML-Enhanced Information Services	Medium	Predictive analytics, recommender systems

Innovation Area	Adoption Level (High/Medium/Low)	Key Examples Reported
Research Data Policy Development	Medium	FAIR data guidelines

Table 3. Challenges in Digital Transformation

Challenge Category	Percentage of Respondents (%)	Impact on Research Innovation
Funding Constraints	65	Limits adoption of advanced tools
Digital Skills Gaps	59	Slows integration of new platforms
Copyright/Legal Barriers	47	Hinders open access initiatives
Infrastructure Limitations	41	Restricts digital expansion in smaller libraries

Discussion:

These findings indicate that there is a slow but inconsistent electronic transformation of library systems. The presence of institutional repositories and library management in clouds widespread suggests that the base digital infrastructure is in place. Nonetheless, the relative lack of AI-based solution implementation and the intellectual property management basing on blockchain indicates that there is a technological disconnect between fundamental digitization and innovative development.

Overall, the findings show that the libraries are reducing their role as information custodians and becoming research innovation centers as long as the financial barriers are broken, an investment is made in the employees, and partnerships with technology manufacturers and academic groups are developed.

Conclusion

It is not the technological update but the complete reevaluation of the role of libraries in the research, learning, and sharing of knowledge process that digital transformation takes place in libraries. By accepting new technologies like artificial intelligence, big data analytics, and digital repositories, libraries are becoming a significantly more active place to achieve much more than information management. Meanwhile, infrastructure, digital literacy, data security

and ethical use of the technology are some of the issues that are associated with the digital change. The potential solution to these problems is in the strategic planning, the continuous training of the personnel and the creation of the policy that will not only reward innovation, but is also a good human to handle information. As the digital transformation is leveled with the human centered ideals, libraries will not only be important but also necessary in the development of the 21st century in the construction of the research world.

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THE ROLE OF NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY IN NATION-BUILDING

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ABSTRACT

Knowledge, wisdom and truth were kept as the highest human goal in our education system since ancient times. Institutes like Taxila, Nalanda, Vikramshila, Vallabhi set the highest standards of multidisciplinary teaching and research while promoting internationalization at home. India has been revered as the land of extraordinary scholars like Charaka Sushruta, Aryabhata, Varahamihira, Bhaskaracharya Brahmagupta Chanakya. His contribution to the world knowledge system, while carrying forward the rich heritage, has been appreciated and valued around the world.

INTRODUCTION

Education gives the ability to think with reason, pursue dreams and aspirations in life and live a respectable life in society. Education gives us a definite path to follow, to lead our lives by principles and gives us the freedom of expression. It frees our minds from the prejudices and motivates it to think with logic and reason. It is essential for the overall development of the human mind and brain. The literacy rate of a country determines its prosperity and economic health. Education is perhaps the essential aspect of human development as it provides an avenue to help people to grow economically and broaden their understanding of cultural and social practices in the community.

Education is the mirror of any society. In a country with a huge population like India, the role of higher education becomes important. It is a challenge for the country to provide quality education to the growing population, then when we are giving this population a positive form of human resource. We need to pay maximum attention to the foundation of this resource i.e. youth education. Youth are the backbone of any nation. On the strength of these leaders, we can make India the strongest country in the world.

BENEFITS OF EDUCATION

The Economic Benefit Education and salary packages really don't always correlate. This is also true when it comes to human development and satisfaction. However, according to various studies, it has been found that individuals with better economic benefits are able to afford better quality essential services which mean that the potential for human development also tends to be higher in comparison to individuals who do not earn that much.

The Progress of the Entire Society When everybody is educated then people tend to develop the necessary skills which will allow one to think beyond just his or her needs. This means that an individual will be able to work for the greater good of the entire mankind. This would further lead to the progress of the entire society and not just a specific section of the world.

Access to the Wider World Even though all human beings might belong to the same species there are still many differences amongst all members. The most glaring differences are of the culture and the language. This also somewhat limits the possibilities which an individual could

be exposed to. However, when an individual is educated then one gets to learn other languages beyond the native ones. This ensures that people are able to socialize with other individuals belonging to other countries and cultures. This would allow individual proper access to the wider world.

Figuring out the Talents and Abilities It is a very common saying that all individuals have some sort of unique sets of qualities, abilities, and talents. And to explore all those abilities and talents one needs education. This concept of education would act as the necessary weapon for discovering and figuring out all the talents and abilities.

Finding the defects There are many positive aspects and negative aspects of an individual's personality. And it is not just vital for an individual to discover his or her positive aspects. It is further required for an individual to be aware of his or her negative aspects and constantly work to improve those negative qualities. This can only be done with the help of education.

Decreasing Poverty and Lowering Crime Rates Education is seen as the only way through which an individual can escape the vicious cycle of poverty. Further there are various surveys and reports which conclude that poverty is the main cause behind an individual committing some sort of crime. If the issue of poverty is solved with the help of education then that can also mean that the crime rates will also be greatly reduced.

IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE IN EDUCATION POLICY

Global cooperation and knowledge exchange in education policy are essential for addressing common challenges, sharing best practices, and fostering innovation in nation-building efforts. Platforms such as UNESCO, OECD, and bilateral partnerships facilitate dialogue, collaboration, and mutual learning among countries.

Policy Transfer: Policymakers can learn from successful education policies implemented in other countries and adapt them to their own contexts. International benchmarks and indicators provide valuable reference points for setting goals, monitoring progress, and evaluating the effectiveness of education policies.

Capacity Building: Global cooperation initiatives support capacity building in education policy development, implementation, and evaluation. Technical assistance, training programs, and knowledge-sharing platforms enable countries to strengthen their institutional capacity and expertise in education governance.

Research Collaboration: Collaborative research projects and networks facilitate the exchange of knowledge, data, and evidence-based practices in education policy. By promoting interdisciplinary research and cross-cultural perspectives, research collaboration contributes to a deeper understanding of the complex challenges and opportunities in education for nation-building.

Identification of Persistent Challenges and Emerging Issues in NEP and Nation-Building: Despite the significant strides made in education policy and nation-building efforts, several persistent challenges and emerging issues continue to pose barriers to progress. These challenges stem from various factors, including socio-economic disparities, political instability, technological disruptions, and globalization.

Educational Inequality: Disparities in educational access, quality, and outcomes persist within and across countries, exacerbating social inequalities and hindering inclusive nation-building efforts. Marginalized communities, including rural populations, minorities, and

persons with disabilities, face systemic barriers to educational opportunities and socio-economic advancement.

Quality and Relevance of Education: Ensuring the quality and relevance of education remains a formidable challenge, particularly in the face of rapid technological advancements and evolving labor market demands. Outdated curricula, inadequate teacher training, and limited access to educational resources impede efforts to equip students with the skills and competencies needed for success in the 21st century.

Education Financing: Adequate and equitable financing of education poses a persistent challenge, with many countries struggling to allocate sufficient resources to meet the growing demand for educational services. Budget constraints, competing priorities, and inefficiencies in resource allocation undermine efforts to expand access, improve infrastructure, and enhance educational outcomes.

Globalization and Cultural Identity: Globalization presents both opportunities and challenges for education policy and nation-building. While increased connectivity and cross-cultural exchange enrich educational experiences and promote global citizenship, they also raise concerns about the preservation of cultural identity, values, and languages in the face of homogenizing forces.

Recommendations for Addressing These Challenges and Enhancing the Effectiveness of NEP: Addressing the challenges facing National Education Policy (NEP) and nation-building requires a multifaceted approach that encompasses policy reforms, institutional capacity-building, stakeholder engagement, and international cooperation. Key recommendations include:

Equity and Inclusion: Prioritize equity and inclusion in education policy by implementing targeted interventions to address socio-economic disparities, improve access to quality education for marginalized populations, and promote inclusive pedagogical practices that accommodate diverse learning needs.

Quality Improvement: Invest in teacher professional development, curriculum reform, and educational technology to enhance the quality and relevance of education. Foster a culture of lifelong learning and continuous improvement through ongoing assessment, feedback, and adaptation of educational programs and practices.

Resource Mobilization: Increase public investment in education and explore innovative financing mechanisms to ensure adequate and sustainable funding for education. Strengthen accountability mechanisms and transparency in resource allocation to optimize the use of financial resources and maximize their impact on educational outcomes.

Cultural Preservation: Promote cultural diversity, heritage, and multilingualism in education policy to safeguard cultural identity and foster intercultural dialogue. Incorporate indigenous knowledge, languages, and traditions into the curriculum to enrich educational experiences and promote respect for cultural diversity.

CONCLUSION

Education is a process by which a person's body, mind and character are formed and strengthened. It is bringing the head, heart and mind together and thus enables a person to develop an all-round personality that identifies his or her best. Higher education in India has expanded very rapidly in the last six decades after independence, yet it is not equally accessible to all. India being a country with huge human resource potential, to make proper use of this

potential is an issue that needs to be discussed. Opportunities are available but how to take advantage of these opportunities and pass them on to others is a matter of concern. To maintain that rate of growth, the number of institutions and the quality of higher education in India also need to increase. Education plays a very important role in deciding the development of the nation.

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The Role of Libraries in Capacity building, Digital literacy and Information Access for Inclusive Development

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Abstract:

In the present century inclusive development depends on equitable access to knowledge, technology and skills. Capacity building, Digital literacy and Information access are three interrelated pillars that determine how individuals and communities participate in social, economic and cultural progress. This paper focuses on the significance of these concepts, highlights their role in promoting social inclusion and identifies challenges and strategies to ensure sustainable and inclusive development. Special attention is given to the crucial role of libraries as enablers of Capacity building, Digital literacy and Information access.

Key Words: Capacity building, Digital literacy, Information access, Equity in access, Social inclusion, inclusive development

Introduction:

Globalization and the digital revolution have reshaped the dynamics of development. However the inequalities persist in terms of opportunities, access and resources. Inclusive development requires not only physical infrastructure but also intellectual and digital capacities of people. Capacity building provides individuals and institutions with necessary skills while digital literacy ensures effective use of digital tools. Information access, in turns, empowers marginalized groups to participate in decision making, education and economic and social activities. For Inclusive growth these factors play very vital role.

Libraries are no longer just repositories of books, they are dynamics of learning hubs which promote Capacity building, and Digital literacy and equitable Information access. By providing inclusive spaces, technological infrastructure and skilled guidance, libraries play a transformative role in bridging knowledge divides. Strengthening libraries through policy reforms, funding and community partnerships is vital for sustainable and inclusive development in the digital era.

The Concepts of Capacity building, Digital literacy and Information Access:

1. Capacity building:

Capacity building refers to the process of developing skills, knowledge, and institutional frameworks that enhance the efficiency and sustainability of individuals and organizations. It involves training, education, mentorship, and policy reforms aimed at empowering communities to address developmental challenges independently. Libraries give access to textbooks, References, research databases and journals and enhance the efficiency and sustainability of readers for that purpose on large scale.

2. Digital Literacy :

Digital literacy goes beyond basic computer skills; it encompasses the ability to critically analyze, create, and share digital content responsibly. It enables individuals to engage in e-

learning, e-governance, online commerce, and digital communication. In an increasingly knowledge-driven economy, digital literacy is essential for bridging the digital divide. Libraries especially digital libraries boost the digital skills in readers.

3. Information Access :

Information access ensures that individuals and communities can freely obtain, evaluate and utilize information resources. Open access to information promotes transparency, accountability, and innovation. Libraries, ICT hubs, and open educational resources (OERs) play an important role in providing equitable information access to their stakeholders.

4. Inclusive development:

Inclusive development means a type of development that benefits all sections of society fairly and equally, especially marginalized and disadvantaged group. It focuses not only on economic growth but also on equity, participation, and social justice so that no one is left behind. In the form of Capacity building; Digital literacy and equitable Information access libraries promote inclusive development.

The Role of Libraries in Capacity Building:

Nowadays libraries are not just book lending places but they are knowledge hubs that directly raise the capacity of individuals, organizations and communities as follows:

Educational Capacity: Libraries provide access to printed and non-printed materials, research databases and journals. Help students, teachers, and researchers improve their academic and professional skills.

Skill Development: Libraries organize training on digital literacy, information search, research writing and citation management. Equip people with modern skills needed for jobs and entrepreneurship.

Information Access & Knowledge Sharing : Libraries act as a bridge between information and users, ensuring everyone (rich or poor) can access knowledge. Librarians guide users to reliable and relevant information sources.

Community Empowerment: Libraries host workshops, seminars and cultural events that enhance social awareness. Promote lifelong learning, literacy programs and professional growth.

Technology & Digital Skills: Libraries provide internet access, e-resources and give ICT training to reduce the digital divide, enable citizens to access e-government services, online education and global opportunities

Institutional Capacity: Libraries strengthen schools, universities and organizations by offering updated knowledge and resources and work as a support system for decision-making through timely and credible information.

The Role of Libraries in Digital Literacy:

Digital literacy is increasingly recognized as a fundamental life skill, comparable to reading and writing. Libraries, as community-oriented institutions, are uniquely positioned to promote digital literacy because they provide both resources and guidance in a non-commercial, inclusive environment. Their contribution can be analyzed across several dimensions as follows:

Providing Equitable Access to Technology: Many communities, especially in rural and marginalized regions, lack personal access to computers or the internet. Libraries fill this gap

by offering free access to digital devices, software and Wi-Fi. For individuals with disabilities, libraries often provide assistive technologies such as screen readers, voice-recognition tools and accessible e-resources, ensuring inclusivity.

Training in Foundational Digital Skills: Libraries organize basic training programs in computer use, internet browsing, email communication, and word processing.

They also provide orientation in using smartphones, e-services and applications essential for e-governance, online banking and AI tools also.

Advanced Digital Competencies: Beyond basic skills, libraries teach users how to evaluate information critically, identify misinformation and practice safe online behavior. Workshops on privacy, cybersecurity and ethical use of information build responsible digital citizens.

Supporting E-Learning and Academic Research: Libraries act as facilitators for online education by providing access to e-books, academic databases, MOOCs and open educational resources (OERs). Librarians guide students and researchers in using digital databases, citation tools, AI tools and reference management software.

The Role of Libraries in Information Access: Libraries ensure that knowledge is collected, organized and made accessible to all. To empower individuals and communities with vital information work as enabler of information access as follow:

Equity in Access: By removing financial and geographic barriers, libraries can democratize information, allowing marginalized groups to benefit equally.

Open Access Resources: Libraries provide access to scholarly databases, journals, e-books, and open educational resources (OERs).

Local Content Preservation: Libraries safeguard cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge, making information accessible in local languages.

Digital Access: Libraries offer e-books, e-journals, online databases and internet services to reduce digital divide.

Conclusion:

Capacity building, digital literacy and information access are indispensable for achieving inclusive development. Libraries, in particular, act as catalysts in this process by offering equitable access to resources, fostering digital skills and empowering communities. To ensure inclusivity, governments, educational institutions, civil society and private sectors must work together to overcome structural barriers. A holistic approach that integrates policy reforms, digital skills, and equitable access to information—supported by strong library systems—will pave the way for sustainable and inclusive global progress which include “Viksit Bharat @2047” also.

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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF LIBRARY RESOURCE UTILIZATION AND IMPACT

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Abstract

This study examines the comparative use of library resources at two state agricultural universities in India Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur, and Vasant Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV), Parbhani. The primary objectives were to analyze the types of resources accessed, frequency and purpose of library use, and the impact of these resources on academic performance, research productivity, and user satisfaction. Using a mixed-methods approach, data were collected from 200 respondents (students, research scholars, and faculty) through questionnaires, interviews, and observation. Results indicate that while digital resources such as e-journals and e-books are increasingly preferred, print resources remain essential for exam preparation and foundational study. Students emerge as the most frequent library users, while research scholars and faculty primarily access specialized digital resources. Comparative findings reveal that IGKV users rely more on print and exam-oriented resources, whereas VNMKV users report higher engagement with digital platforms and greater research impact. Overall satisfaction levels remain high, though challenges include limited access to international databases, the need for digital literacy training, and demands for extended library hours. The study highlights the evolving role of ICT-enabled hybrid libraries in supporting academic excellence and research in agricultural universities.

Keywords: Academic libraries, IGKV, VNMKV, print resources, digital resources, research productivity, user satisfaction, agricultural education.

1. INTRODUCTION

University libraries are regarded as the backbone of higher education institutions, serving as vital centers for academic support, research facilitation, and information dissemination (Kaur & Verma, 2019). In the context of agricultural universities, their importance becomes more significant because they cater not only to students and faculty but also to researchers and extension workers engaged in generating and transferring agricultural innovations to farming communities (Patel, 2021). The utilization of library resources—both print and digital directly influences academic outcomes, research productivity, and the quality of agricultural education (Sinha & Singh, 2020).

The past two decades have witnessed a paradigm shift in the functioning of university libraries in India, driven largely by information and communication technologies (ICTs). Libraries have increasingly adopted automation software such as Koha, digital repositories, and access to electronic databases through initiatives like the Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture (CeRA) and Krishikosh (ICAR, 2022). These developments have enhanced resource accessibility and knowledge sharing across institutions, enabling scholars in remote regions to access updated scientific literature in real time. However, disparities still exist in

terms of infrastructure, user awareness, and levels of resource utilization across different universities (Sharma, 2020).

Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur, and Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV), Parbhani, are two prominent state agricultural universities in India. Both universities maintain well-established central libraries that provide a blend of print and digital resources, ICT-enabled services, and user-focused facilities. For instance, IGKV's Nehru Library is designated as a regional library hub by ICAR and holds more than one lakh resources, including access to CeRA and Krishikosh (Nehru Library, IGKV, 2023). Similarly, the Central Library of VNMKV, established in 1972, has adopted modern tools such as Koha and RFID technology to provide efficient access to books, journals, and e-resources for students, faculty, and extension staff (VNMKV, 2023). Despite these similarities, institutional contexts, regional needs, and patterns of resource utilization differ, thereby necessitating a comparative assessment of library use and impact.

This paper aims to conduct a comparative analysis of library resource utilization at IGKV and VNMKV, focusing on how these resources contribute to academic, research, and extension activities. The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To examine the types of library resources (print and digital) accessed by users at IGKV and VNMKV.
2. To analyze the frequency and purpose of library use among students, researchers, and faculty.
3. To assess the impact of library resources on academic performance, research productivity, and user satisfaction.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1 Study Area

The present study was conducted at two state agricultural universities in India: Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur in Chhattisgarh, and Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV), Parbhani in Maharashtra. Both universities are recognized for their significant contributions to agricultural education, research, and extension activities, and they maintain well-established central libraries with a wide range of print and digital resources. The selection of these universities for the study is based on their regional importance and the presence of modern ICT-enabled library systems.

2.2 Population and Sample

The population of the study comprised students (undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral), faculty members, and research scholars who are regular users of the central libraries of IGKV and VNMKV. From this population, a stratified random sampling technique was employed to ensure representation across user categories.

- A total of 200 respondents were selected, with 100 each from IGKV and VNMKV.
- Within each university sample, the distribution included approximately 60 students, 25 research scholars, and 15 faculty members. This distribution ensured that the study captured diverse perspectives regarding library use and impact.

Tools for Data Collection

To gather primary data, the following tools were used:

1. **Structured Questionnaire** – designed to collect quantitative data on the frequency of library use, types of resources accessed, purposes of use, and levels of satisfaction.

2. **Interviews** – semi-structured interviews were conducted with faculty members and librarians to gain qualitative insights into challenges, service quality, and institutional practices.
3. **Observation** – non-participant observation was used to study user behavior within the library (e.g., use of digital terminals, seating patterns, and reference services).

Methods of Data Analysis

The collected data was analyzed using a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches:

- **Quantitative Analysis:** Responses from the questionnaire were coded and analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation) and inferential tests such as the chi-square test to identify significant differences between IGKV and VNMKV.
- **Qualitative Analysis:** Data from interviews and observations were analyzed thematically to identify patterns, user perceptions, and contextual challenges. The qualitative findings were triangulated with quantitative results to strengthen the validity of the study.

3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

This section presents the findings of the comparative study conducted at the central libraries of IGKV (Raipur) and VNMKV (Parbhani). Data from 200 respondents (100 from each university) were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistical methods. Results are structured according to the study objectives.

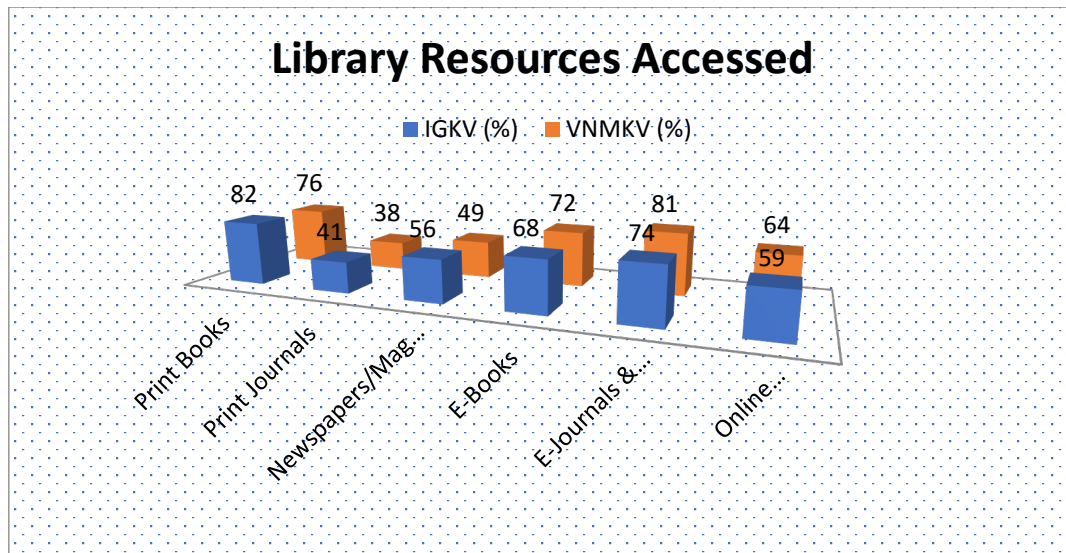
3.1 Types of Library Resources Accessed

Table 1 shows the types of resources accessed by respondents. Both universities exhibit a strong preference for digital resources (e-databases, e-journals), though print books remain essential for students.

Table 1: Types of Library Resources Accessed by Users (Multiple Responses, % of Respondents)

Resource Type	IGKV (%)	VNMKV (%)	χ^2 -value	p-value
Print Books	82	76	1.21	0.27 (NS)
Print Journals	41	38	0.18	0.67 (NS)
Newspapers/Magazines	56	49	0.92	0.34 (NS)
E-Books	68	72	0.34	0.55 (NS)
E-Journals & Databases	74	81	1.43	0.23 (NS)
Online Thesis/Dissertation	59	64	0.41	0.52 (NS)

Note: NS = Not Significant at 5% level



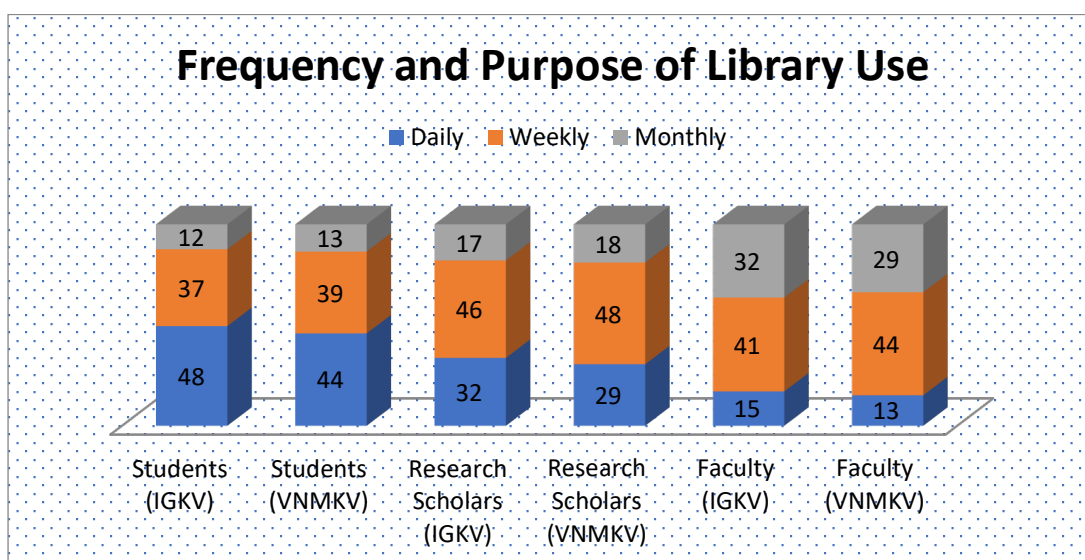
Interpretation: Both IGKV and VNMKV users rely heavily on digital resources, with e-journals and e-books being the most frequently accessed, while print resources remain important for foundational study materials.

3.2 Frequency and Purpose of Library Use

Table 2 presents the frequency of library visits. Students tend to visit more frequently for study and reference, while faculty and researchers rely more on digital access.

Table 2: Frequency of Library Visits by User Category (% of Respondents)

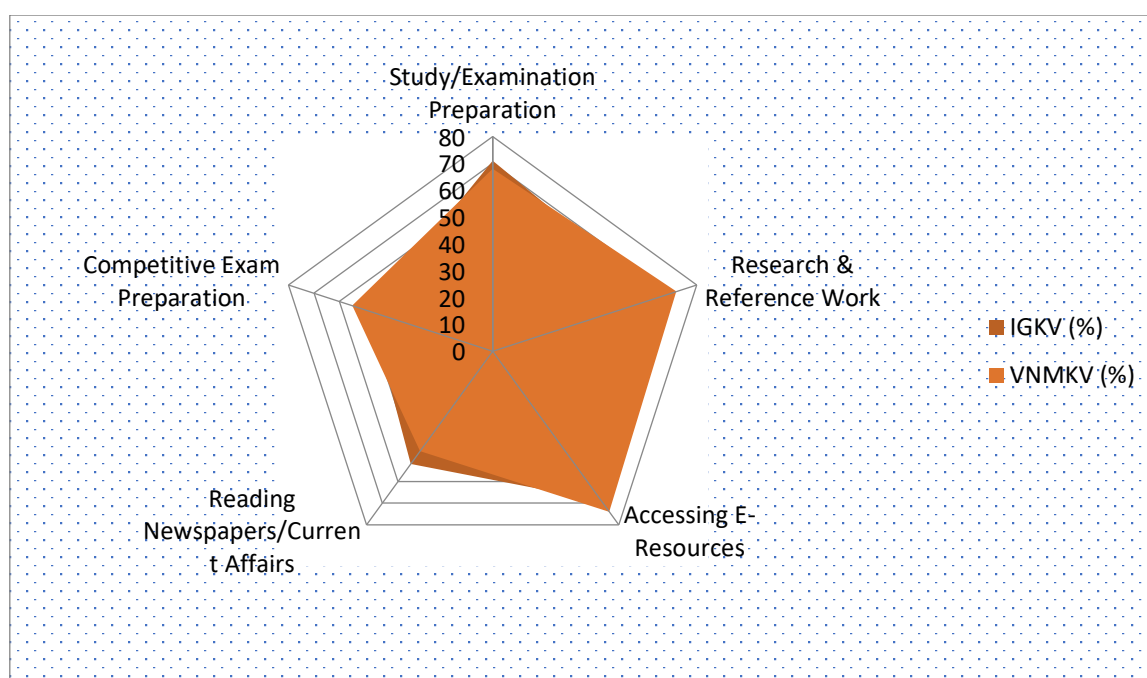
User Category	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Rarely	Mean Visits/Month
Students (IGKV)	48	37	12	3	16.8
Students (VNMKV)	44	39	13	4	15.6
Research Scholars (IGKV)	32	46	17	5	12.4
Research Scholars (VNMKV)	29	48	18	5	11.8
Faculty (IGKV)	15	41	32	12	7.6
Faculty (VNMKV)	13	44	29	14	7.2



Interpretation: Students use libraries more intensively compared to faculty, with IGKV slightly ahead in daily visits. Research scholars at both universities rely on weekly visits due to research requirements.

Table 3: Purpose of Library Use (Multiple Responses, % of Respondents)

Purpose	IGKV (%)	VNMKV (%)
Study/Examination Preparation	71	68
Research & Reference Work	65	72
Accessing E-Resources	69	74
Reading Newspapers/Current Affairs	52	46
Competitive Exam Preparation	48	55



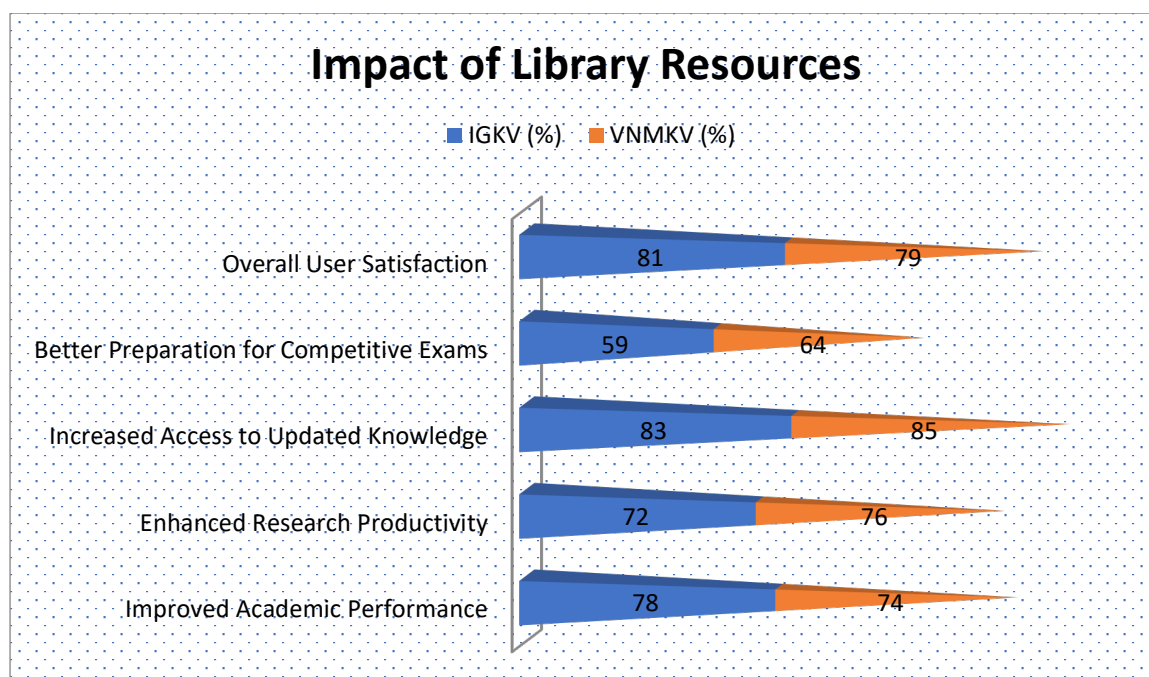
Interpretation: Research and e-resource access dominate among VNMKV users, while IGKV users slightly emphasize exam preparation and current affairs.

3.3 Impact of Library Resources

The impact of resources was measured in terms of academic performance, research productivity, and overall satisfaction.

Table 4: Perceived Impact of Library Resources on Users (% of Respondents Agreeing/Strongly Agreeing)

Impact Area	IGKV (%)	VNMKV (%)	Mean Score (5-Point Likert)
Improved Academic Performance	78	74	4.1
Enhanced Research Productivity	72	76	4.0
Increased Access to Updated Knowledge	83	85	4.3
Better Preparation for Competitive Exams	59	64	3.7
Overall User Satisfaction	81	79	4.2



Interpretation: Both universities show high satisfaction levels (>79%). VNMKV users rate research productivity slightly higher, while IGKV respondents highlight the role of resources in academic performance.

3.4 Qualitative Insights

From interviews and observations:

- **Faculty** emphasized the need for improved subscription to international databases.
- **Students** highlighted the importance of extended library hours during exams.
- **Librarians** reported challenges in digital literacy among first-year undergraduates.
- **Observation** confirmed increasing use of digital terminals, particularly for e-journals and thesis access.

4. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study examined the comparative use of library resources at IGKV (Raipur) and VNMKV (Parbhani) with respect to types of resources accessed, frequency and purpose of use, and the impact of resources on academic and research outcomes. The findings provide valuable insights into the evolving role of university libraries in the digital era.

4.1 Resource Utilization Patterns

The results indicate that both universities have witnessed a shift from traditional print resources to digital platforms. While print books continue to be widely used, e-journals, databases, and e-books dominate among both student and researcher groups. This aligns with broader trends in academic libraries where digital resources offer ease of access, currency of information, and remote availability. However, the persistence of print usage reflects the hybrid nature of learning materials, especially in agriculture where textbooks, manuals, and field guides remain crucial.

4.2 Frequency and Purpose of Library Use

The frequency analysis reveals that students are the most frequent visitors, highlighting the library's centrality in study and examination preparation. Faculty members, on the other hand, rely more on selective and digital access, visiting libraries less frequently. Research

scholars from both universities show a pattern of weekly visits, often linked to their research cycles.

In terms of purpose, VNМКV respondents emphasized research and e-resources more strongly, while IGKV users showed relatively higher reliance on print for academic and exam preparation. This variation may be attributed to differences in curriculum emphasis, resource allocation, and digital training programs available at each institution.

4.3 Academic and Research Impact

The impact analysis suggests that both libraries significantly contribute to academic performance, research productivity, and user satisfaction. Students particularly highlighted improved academic outcomes, while research scholars and faculty emphasized enhanced access to updated knowledge and research resources.

VNМКV scored slightly higher on research productivity impact, which may be due to its relatively stronger emphasis on digital databases and online thesis access. IGKV respondents, however, valued the role of print and mixed resources in exam-oriented learning. These findings reinforce the need for balanced collection development policies that serve diverse user groups.

4.4 User Satisfaction and Challenges

Overall user satisfaction levels were high (above 79% at both universities), demonstrating that ICT-enabled systems and hybrid collections are meeting most user expectations. Yet, qualitative insights revealed persistent challenges:

- **Faculty** stressed the need for broader international database subscriptions, indicating resource gaps for advanced research.
- **Students** demanded longer library hours, especially during examination periods, suggesting a service delivery issue rather than a resource gap.
- **Librarians** observed digital literacy limitations among new undergraduates, pointing to the necessity of orientation and training programs.

4.5 Comparative Perspective

While both IGKV and VNМКV have similar resource infrastructures, subtle differences emerged:

- **IGKV** demonstrated stronger engagement with print resources and exam-related preparation.
- **VNМКV** showed greater reliance on digital resources and stronger perceived impact on research productivity.

5. CONCLUSION

1. University libraries at both IGKV and VNМКV are functioning as vital academic hubs, integrating both print and digital resources.
2. Digital resources (e-journals, e-books, databases) dominate usage patterns, though print books remain crucial for foundational learning.
3. Students are the most frequent library visitors, while faculty and research scholars rely more on selective, research-oriented access.
4. Library resources significantly contribute to academic performance, research productivity, and competitive exam preparation.
5. Overall user satisfaction levels are high (>79%), but challenges persist in terms of international database access, extended library hours, and digital literacy.

6. IGKV shows stronger engagement with print resources and exam-related preparation, whereas VNMKV demonstrates greater reliance on digital resources and research productivity.
7. Strategic improvements in ICT infrastructure, user training, and resource allocation can further enhance the impact of these libraries on teaching, learning, and research.

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USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LIBRARY SCIENCE: ITS ADVANTAGES, DISADVANTAGES AND FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

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[Mo.No.9420652531](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17384613)

Abstract

This article explores the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in library science, highlighting its benefits, limitations, and potential future developments. The adoption of digital technologies and AI tools in libraries has been growing rapidly. The main objective of this study is to examine how AI is being integrated into library management, to assess its advantages and drawbacks, and to consider its future scope. Key AI applications in libraries include automated cataloging, intelligent search and recommendation systems, chatbots, data analysis, digital preservation, multilingual services, and plagiarism detection. Findings reveal that AI enhances library services by enabling faster operations, personalized user experiences, data-driven decision-making, global access to information, saving time and labor, and safeguarding collections. At the same time, significant challenges are observed, such as high implementation costs, the need for specialized training, concerns regarding data privacy, reduced human interaction, digital inequality, and certain technical constraints. The paper provides an analytical discussion of these aspects.

Key words: Use of Artificial Intelligence, Library Science and Artificial Intelligence, Artificial Intelligence and Its Advantages, Artificial Intelligence and Disadvantages, Artificial Intelligence and Future Possibilities

Introduction

Library science deals with the organization, management, and dissemination of knowledge and information. Traditionally, libraries were primarily concerned with storing books and documents. However, in today's digital era, where rapid access to information is crucial, the function of libraries has expanded considerably. Modern libraries now serve not only as information providers but also as hubs for research, knowledge creation, and digital learning. The advancement of digital technologies has simplified the processes of acquiring, storing, managing, and distributing information. Within this evolving context, Artificial Intelligence has gained significant importance. AI-based applications such as automated cataloging, intelligent search engines and recommendation tools, chatbots, data analytics, and digital preservation systems are increasingly being adopted. These technologies have substantially improved information accessibility, operational efficiency, and the overall user experience.

Objectives of the study

1. To explain how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is applied in the field of library science.
2. To study the benefits and improvements in library management through the use of AI-based technologies.

3. To examine the limitations, risks, and drawbacks associated with the use of AI in libraries.
4. To suggest AI-driven strategies and enhancements for the libraries of the future.

Review of Literature

Library science is primarily concerned with information management, knowledge organization, and the dissemination of information. With the advent of digital technologies, the processes of searching, organizing, and distributing information in libraries have become more efficient. Within this transformation, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a vital component. Globally, several studies have explored the applications of AI in library science.

Earlier research highlights that AI plays a significant role in improving the speed, efficiency, accessibility of information, personalized services, and digital preservation within libraries. Johnson (2020) emphasized that AI-driven systems outperform traditional methods in terms of speed and accuracy when it comes to search, classification, and content management. Similarly, Smith and Brown (2019) noted that automated cataloging and metadata generation save librarians' time while improving information services. Kumar (2021) investigated AI-based recommendation systems and found that they enable readers to quickly access relevant information, thereby enhancing user experience. Lee (2020) demonstrated how data analytics and the study of user reading patterns make library services more data-driven and strategically planned. Chaudhary (2021) pointed out that AI ensures the digital preservation and secure digitization of rare documents. Rao (2020) highlighted the significance of AI in plagiarism detection, particularly in academic resources and research materials.

Overall, the literature review indicates that AI has become an essential tool in library science, particularly in enhancing information retrieval, distribution, and management. Nonetheless, some studies also identified challenges such as high implementation costs, the need for staff training, data privacy concerns, reduced human involvement, and the digital divide. These findings suggest that the adoption of AI in libraries must be supported by proper planning, ethical guidelines, and continuous professional training.

Application of AI in Library Science

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly being used in library science in multiple ways, making information management more efficient, faster, and user-oriented. AI plays a crucial role in library administration, information retrieval, and service delivery. Its application enables libraries to become more accurate, personalized, and data-driven.

Automated Cataloguing

In traditional cataloguing, staff members manually classify books, journals, or electronic resources. AI-powered systems automate this process by generating metadata such as title, author, publication year, and subject. This automation not only saves time for library professionals but also ensures systematic organization and more precise retrieval of information (Smith & Brown, 2019).

Recommendation and Search Systems

AI-based search engines retrieve relevant information according to user needs. Personalized recommendation systems further suggest books, articles, or digital resources based on users' reading patterns (Kumar, 2021). For instance, library management systems such as Koha or Ex Libris Alma integrate AI-driven search and recommendation functions.

As a result, readers can access the required information more quickly, while enjoying a smoother and more personalized search experience.

Chatbots and Virtual Assistants

AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants provide instant responses to user queries, offering continuous support and guidance. These tools help readers locate books, understand borrowing procedures, or access electronic resources (Patel, 2022). Consequently, they improve user satisfaction, reduce the workload on library staff, and enable round-the-clock service delivery.

Data Analytics

Artificial Intelligence enables the study of user reading patterns, popular resources, and the overall usage of library services. This makes library management more data-driven and strategic in decision-making (Lee, 2020). For example, AI-powered analytics integrated with software such as Tableau or Power BI can help enhance library services. This leads to more effective utilization of resources, better budget planning, and service improvements tailored to user needs.

Digital Preservation

AI technologies play a vital role in preserving rare books, manuscripts, and archival documents in digital formats. This process involves scanning, Optical Character Recognition (OCR), and digitization techniques (Chaudhary, 2021). For instance, initiatives such as Google Books and Europeana Digital Library employ AI-based digitization systems. As a result, rare materials are securely preserved, made searchable, and remain accessible for future research and academic use.

Multilingual Services and Translation

AI-based translation tools provide access to library resources in multiple languages, thereby promoting inclusivity and global knowledge exchange (Zhang, 2019). Applications such as Google Translate and DeepL allow libraries to offer multilingual access to research publications and books, making knowledge more accessible to diverse readers across the world.

Plagiarism Detection

AI systems are extensively used in academic libraries to ensure originality and authenticity in scholarly work. By identifying and preventing plagiarism, these systems uphold academic integrity and strengthen anti-theft measures (Rao, 2020). Consequently, research outputs gain greater credibility, and trust in academic contributions is reinforced.

Advantages of AI in Library Science

Faster Services:

AI significantly accelerates processes such as information retrieval, cataloguing, and resource classification. Users are able to access relevant materials more quickly, while library workflows become more streamlined.

Personalized Experiences:

Through recommendation systems and machine learning algorithms, AI tailors content to individual users based on their reading behavior. This enhances the user experience and improves reader satisfaction.

Data-Driven Decisions:

By applying AI-powered data analytics, libraries can track usage patterns, resource popularity, budget allocation, and collection development strategies. This results in more effective resource utilization and greater efficiency in management.

Global Access to Information:

Through multilingual services and AI-based translation systems, information can be made available in multiple languages. This promotes global knowledge dissemination and ensures accessibility for readers from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

Time and Effort Saving:

Automated cataloging, digital preservation, and plagiarism detection reduce the workload of library staff and save considerable time. This allows librarians to focus more on personalized services and supporting research activities.

Preservation of Collections: Rare books, manuscripts, and archival materials can be securely preserved in digital form using AI. This ensures long-term protection of valuable information and provides easy access for future research.

Disadvantages and Limitations of AI in Library Science**High Costs and Limited Availability:**

Implementing AI systems requires significant investment in software, hardware, and ongoing maintenance. Smaller or rural libraries often face financial barriers in adopting such technologies.

Need for Training and Skills:

Library staff requires specialized technical skills to operate AI-based systems effectively. Without proper training, these technologies cannot be utilized to their full potential.

Data Privacy and Ethical Concerns:

The use of AI in libraries involves handling sensitive user data. If not safeguarded properly, this information could be misused. Additionally, biased algorithms may lead to ethical challenges.

Digital Divide:

Libraries in rural or under-resourced areas often lack access to advanced AI tools and technologies. As a result, the benefits of AI are not evenly distributed, leading to inequality in information access.

Technical Limitations:

AI systems may not always interpret contextual information accurately, which can result in incorrect recommendations or misleading search results.

Artificial Intelligence has emerged as a powerful tool in library science, significantly improving information retrieval, service delivery, preservation, and user experience. However, challenges such as high costs, the need for training, ethical concerns, and the digital divide must be carefully addressed. With proper planning, staff development, ethical guidelines, and inclusive policies, libraries can maximize the benefits of AI while minimizing its limitations.

Future Prospects of AI in Library Science

Artificial Intelligence (AI) significantly contributes to various processes in library science, including information management, retrieval, distribution, and digital preservation.

However, its use comes with both advantages and limitations. AI-based systems perform tasks such as cataloguing, classification, and information search more quickly than traditional methods, but they require high technological investment and staff training. Personalized recommendations enhance user satisfaction, yet the reduced role of human guidance may affect personal interaction. While library management becomes more effective and decision-oriented, concerns such as data privacy and algorithmic bias raise ethical challenges.

Looking ahead, the following improvements are essential:

- Expanding access to AI tools and training for rural and small libraries.
- Positioning AI as a complement to human guidance, thereby preserving personal interaction.
- Developing regulations and guidelines to protect user data and minimize algorithmic bias.

Future AI-driven libraries are expected to provide more interactive, personalized, and secure services. In essence, AI is a powerful tool that, when balanced between benefits and limitations, can make information services more efficient, faster, and user-centered. With proper planning, skill development, and ethical frameworks, smart libraries of the future will be able to disseminate knowledge more effectively.

Conclusion

The application of Artificial Intelligence in library science is proving crucial across information management, retrieval, distribution, and preservation. AI is opening new horizons for the field. With proper planning, skill-based training, and adherence to ethical standards, AI can become an effective instrument for knowledge acquisition and dissemination. At the same time, maintaining human interaction, ethical responsibility, and inclusivity remains equally important. AI systems enable library services to become faster, more accurate, personalized, and data-driven. Its advantages are more visible in urban and academic libraries, while rural and small libraries often face financial and technological challenges. Overall, AI is a strong and transformative tool in library science that, if implemented with proper planning, training, and ethical guidelines, can make library services smarter, more effective, and user-friendly.

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Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies used by Libraries in Kolhapur District

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Abstract

This paper examines the role and potential of artificial intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies in transforming libraries in Kolhapur District, Maharashtra, India. It reviews the current status of library infrastructure in Kolhapur, identifies possible applications of AI technologies (such as machine learning, natural language processing, recommendation systems, chatbots, smart cataloguing, and digital repositories), and discusses the benefits and challenges in implementing these technologies in the local context. Drawing on literature at national and international levels, and data from selected libraries in Kolhapur (academic, college, and rural), this paper argues that while Kolhapur's libraries have begun adopting basic digital and automation infrastructure (OPAC, LAN, digital libraries), AI remains underutilized. Barriers include limited funding, lack of trained personnel, low awareness among stakeholders, infrastructural constraints (power, connectivity), and policy gaps. The paper recommends strategic planning, capacity building, pilot projects, partnerships, and policy support to harness AI for improved library services, particularly in rural and under-served areas of Kolhapur district.

Keywords: Library Services, Digital Libraries, Library Automation, Information Retrieval, Ethics in AI, User Experience.

Introduction

Libraries have always been repositories of human knowledge, culture, and learning. In the digital age, the functions, expectations, and technologies of libraries are rapidly changing. Emerging technologies — particularly artificial intelligence and machine learning, natural language processing, robotics, recommendation systems, big data analytics, and generative models — offer huge promise for reimagining library services: for example, more efficient cataloguing, better search and retrieval, personalized recommendation, virtual reference services, digital preservation, and enhanced accessibility for marginalized groups.

Kolhapur District, in southern Maharashtra, has a mix of urban, semi-urban and rural communities, and a variety of libraries: university, college, government polytechnic, rural libraries, public libraries. This diversity presents both opportunity and challenge for the adoption of emerging technologies. Understanding how AI and related technologies can be integrated in this local context is critical.

This paper explores what technologies are currently in place in libraries in Kolhapur; what emerging technologies / AI applications are feasible or being used in Indian and comparable contexts; what challenges Kolhapur libraries face; and recommendations for moving forward.

Current status of libraries in Kolhapur District

Although there is limited published literature specifically about AI deployment in Kolhapur's libraries, some data exist about digital and automated infrastructure in certain institutions. The following describes a sample of what is known:

- **KIT's College of Engineering, Kolhapur** has a central library with digital library facilities: 30 nodes with internet connectivity; a rich collection of print and e-resources; institutional memberships (e.g. National Digital Library, DELNET).
- **College of Education, Peth Vadgaon (Kolhapur)** library has been computerized with New Gen Lib software (which handles acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, periodicals etc.), LAN network, OPAC, barcode reader/printer, internet access, multiple computers for users.
- **Government Polytechnic Kolhapur:** fully computerized library with use of a library management software (Vidyasagar LMS), departmental libraries, LAN connection, OPAC, digital repositories (question papers etc.), e-resources. (
- On the policy/funding side, there is a recent announcement that new government-recognized libraries in Kolhapur will from year 2023-24 get **60% grants** from the first day, and salaries of staff will see increases. This suggests growth in governmental support for libraries.
- Local government has also selected several villages in Kolhapur for "library makeover" projects, aiming to revamp or enhance library services in rural areas

From the above, it is evident that many libraries in Kolhapur already have basic digitization/automation/internet infrastructure, at least in academic or technical institutions. However, there is little evidence in the literature (publicly available) that these libraries have incorporated more advanced AI tools (e.g. chatbots, machine learning-based recommendation or predictive analytics, speech recognition, or AI-driven OCR for regional scripts).

Potential for AI & Emerging Technologies in Kolhapur Libraries

Given the above, what are possible areas of application specifically in Kolhapur? Considering the current status (automation, digital libraries, internet), these are plausible:

1. **Chatbots / Virtual Reference Services:** For academic libraries (e.g. colleges, polytechnics, universities), deploying AI chatbots that can answer frequently asked questions (opening hours, library resources, how to use OPAC, how to cite sources etc.).
2. **Recommendation Systems:** Based on usage logs, borrowed books, reading histories, to suggest books or e-resources to library users; could improve user engagement.
3. **Predictive Analytics for Collection Development:** Using past circulation data, demographic patterns to decide what books to purchase or retain, especially in college/rural libraries.
4. **OCR and Digitization of Regional Collections:** Libraries in Kolhapur may have local language (Marathi) manuscripts, rare collections; AI/ML for OCR of Devanagari script, image restoration, digitization, making them searchable.
5. **Large Language Models / Generative AI for Summarization, Query Answering:** E.g., giving summaries of article content, helping students with research questions.
6. **Smart Cataloguing / Automated Metadata Tagging:** Using AI to generate or suggest categorization, subject headings, classify new acquisitions.
7. **Voice / Speech Interfaces:** For visually impaired users, or users in rural areas with limited reading literacy; voice search for OPAC, text to speech, speech to text.

8. **Mobile Apps:** AI-powered mobile applications for library search, notifications (due dates, new arrivals), possibly interactive features.
9. **Remote Access / Digital Library Expansion:** Using cloud infrastructure, remote access tools, virtualization to allow users in remote villages to access e-resources.
10. **Infrastructure Monitoring and Energy Efficiency:** Emerging tech (IoT, sensors) to monitor environment (humidity, temperature) for preservation, plus energy usage for sustainability.

Challenges in Implementing AI / Emerging Technologies in Kolhapur

While there is opportunity, Kolhapur libraries will face a number of challenges. Some are general for developing contexts; others are more specific:

1. **Limited Funding:** AI tools, hardware, maintenance, cloud services cost money. Smaller rural or community libraries may have constrained budgets.
2. **Lack of Skilled Human Resource:** Need for staff with skills in AI, ML, data analytics, digital librarianship. Training is required.
3. **Infrastructure Constraints:** Reliable electricity, internet bandwidth, hardware (computers, servers) may be missing or insufficient in some rural areas.
4. **Awareness & Attitude:** Among library management, staff, users; some may see AI as too complicated, risky, or fear job displacement. Ethical issues like privacy, bias also cause concern.
5. **Data Quality and Digitization:** Many libraries still have mostly print collections, limited digitization; lack of clean, structured metadata necessary for AI applications.
6. **Policy and Regulatory Gaps:** Library policies may not cover data privacy, AI use, licensing; procurement rules may impede adoption; state/national level policies may be unspecific.
7. **Language and Script Challenges:** Many local texts are in Marathi, Devanagari script, regional dialects; OCR for regional languages may be less developed; training data may be scarce.
8. **Sustainability and Maintenance:** After pilot or initial implementation, maintaining hardware/software, updating AI models, ensuring continuous funding is challenging.
9. **User Digital Literacy:** Especially in rural areas, users may have limited experience with computers, internet, making adoption of digital / AI tools less effective without training and support.
10. **Connectivity / Digital Divide:** Internet access in remote areas may be unreliable; cloud-based or remotely hosted AI services need consistent connectivity.

Ethical, Social, and Equity Considerations

In adopting AI and emerging technologies, several non-technical issues must be kept in mind:

- **Privacy and Data Protection:** Borrower/user data (reading histories, etc.) must be handled carefully; policies needed.
- **Bias and Inclusivity:** AI models often encode biases; ensure that recommendation or classification systems do not disadvantage users who prefer regional or local language materials.
- **Accessibility:** Tools must be accessible to users with disabilities; interfaces should support multiple languages (Marathi, etc.)

- **Job Displacement:** Staff may fear that AI will replace them; clear communication that AI is to support, not replace humans; re-skilling needs.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Local manuscripts, vernacular texts, cultural heritage materials may require special handling, consent, etc.
- **Digital Divide:** Ensuring that rural / remote users are not left behind; providing physical infrastructure (devices, internet) and training.

Recommendations

Given all of the above, the following recommendations are made for stakeholders (library administrators, state government, LIS educators, tech firms) in Kolhapur District:

1. **Conduct detailed needs assessment:** Survey all libraries (academic, public, rural) in Kolhapur to map out their infrastructure, staff skills, digitization status, user demand.
2. **Pilot AI projects:** For example, set up an AI chatbot in one or two libraries; work on OCR of local language collections; recommendation systems for college libraries.
3. **Partnerships:** Partner with local universities (e.g. Shivaji University), tech institutes, NGOs for skills, technical support, possibly shared infrastructure.
4. **Funding & Grants:** State government should earmark funds specifically for technology upgrades, including AI tools; grants under library modernization should account for AI/ML, not just digitization.
5. **Capacity Building:** Training workshops for library staff in digital librarianship, AI basics, data science, metadata, ethics.
6. **Policy development:** Create district/state level guidelines for data privacy, AI use in libraries; adoption of standard metadata formats; support for regional languages.
7. **User education:** Programs to help users (students, public) learn to use digital tools, AI-based services; building trust in these technologies.
8. **Evaluation & Feedback:** After implementation, evaluate impact (usage statistics, user satisfaction), refine systems, scale what works.
9. **Sustainability planning:** Maintenance contracts, periodic updates, plan for hardware replacement, continuous budget support.
10. **Focus on inclusivity:** Special attention to ensure that rural, marginalized, or less literate communities are served; mobile services, audio interfaces etc.

Conclusion

Kolhapur District stands at a promising threshold: the basic digital and automated infrastructure for many of its libraries, especially academic ones, is already in place. This provides a platform for integrating more advanced AI and emerging technologies which have the potential to greatly enhance library services — through better search and discovery, personalized recommendations, digital access, improved cataloguing, and outreach into rural communities. However, to achieve this potential, a coordinated strategy that addresses infrastructure, skills, policy, funding, and inclusivity is required. Pilot projects in Kolhapur can serve as models. If done well, AI in libraries can not only modernize service provision but also promote equitable access to information, support education, preserve local heritage, and foster community development.

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A Comparative Analysis of PubMed and Dimensions.ai in Biomedical Research

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Abstract: Biomedical researchers utilize literature databases for reading scholarly articles, following citations, and identifying forthcoming research trends. Two of the most widely utilized platforms are PubMed and Dimensions.ai, and they are extremely helpful. PubMed is archived in the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and is ranked as one of the most trustworthy sources of peer-reviewed biomedical literature. It contains articles from MEDLINE, PubMed Central (PMC), and Bookshelf. Digital Science's Dimensions.ai, however, integrates publications, funding agencies, clinical trials, patents, and citation metrics to offer a broader multidisciplinary research culture. It compares the two databases on the parameters of coverage, searching features, citation analysis, accessibility, and usability and helps researchers identify the most suitable platform for their specific needs.

Introduction: Efficient information retrieval systems must be available for biomedical and health sciences research to track citation impact, recognize impactful publications, and be aware of recent developments. Research scientists, doctors, and legislators use literature databases to make decisions based on evidence. Dimensions.ai and PubMed are two highly acclaimed biological literature databases each with its own unique characteristics and features. PubMed, the most well-known and authoritative database of biological literature, began in 1996 and now indexes Bookshelf, PMC, and MEDLINE journal articles (Lu, 2011). PubMed is a trustworthy source for healthcare professionals because it is publicly available and focuses on peer-reviewed journal articles. And then, in 2018, Digital Science launched Dimensions.ai, a new trans-disciplinary research analytics platform. Unlike PubMed, which tracks only the biological sciences, Dimensions.ai tracks an extremely broad range of topics from the social sciences, engineering, and humanities, to citation tracking, financial analysis, and patents. (Hook et al. 2018)

This paper explores the main differences among these systems with both their strengths and weaknesses in coverage, search capabilities, citation analysis, and usability.

1. Database Coverage and Scope

The worth of a database to various forms of study lies in its coverage.

1.1 PubMed Coverage

Currently, PubMed contains over 36 million citations of over thousands of credible journals, primarily indexing peer-reviewed scientific literature (National Library of Medicine, 2023). Its content includes,

- Journal articles from credible medical journals, such as The Lancet, JAMA, and the New England Journal of Medicine.
- Systematic reviews, clinical trials, and meta-analyses are essential components of evidence-based medicine (Lowe & Barnett, 2009).

- Government-funded research articles, especially those originating from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

PubMed is limited to preliminary studies only because it does not comprise conference papers, patents, or preprints.

1.2 Dimensions.ai Coverage

Dimensions.ai's broader research environment, which covers more than 100 million research outputs, its included:

- Journal reporting from a diverse range of disciplines (biomedical, social sciences, engineering, and humanities).
- Preprints, as noted by Hook et al. (2018), allow researchers to track emerging trends in research before peer review.
- Inclusion of patents and funding information, thus an essential tool for tracking innovation.
- Clinical trials and policy documents, filling the gap between science and everyday practice (Herzog et al., 2020).

Therefore, whereas PubMed is more discriminating, highlighting high-quality biomedical research, Dimensions.ai gives an overview closer to the whole.

2. Search Functionality and Features

One needs an effective search engine to locate useful content.

2.1 PubMed's Search System

MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) is the common term PubMed uses to augment the specificity of search results (Lowe & Barnett, 2009).

- Researchers can utilize the Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT to refine their searches and gain more accurate filtering.
- Other advanced features of the search include author names, publication years, and journal sources.
- Special instructions for free full-text availability, clinical trials, and systematic reviews.

Lack of citation-based search facilities in PubMed makes it difficult to track study influence.

2.2 Dimensions.AI's Search System

Dimensions.ai uses natural language processing (NLP) to create a more flexible and AI-powered search experience (Herzog et al., 2020). The key features include:

- Citation-based search allows readers to see who has cited a certain article.
- Funding-based searches assist academics in identifying financial support patterns.
- Integration of patent and clinical trials, which associates scientific findings with practical applications.

Thus, while PubMed provides an efficient and accurate search process, Dimensions.ai presents a more interactive and responsive search interface.

3. Citation Analysis and Research Impact

One of the most significant differences between PubMed and Dimensions.ai lies in their citation tracking and impact analysis.

3.1 PubMed's Citation System

It is not possible to track citations in PubMed. Scholars must use Web of Science, Scopus, or Google Scholar to keep an eye on citations. Research influence analysis is limited by the absence of comprehensive citation measures (Lu, 2011).

3.2 Dimensions.ai's Citation System

System Dimensions.ai possesses strong citation analysis capabilities, including

- Author influence evaluation with H-index computation.
- Altmetric scores utilized in the calculation of public interest in news articles and social media (Hook et al., 2018).
- Collaboration networks representing the relationship between authors and institutions.

These are some of the reasons why Dimensions.ai is a more suitable choice for citation-based study analysis.

4. Usability and Accessibility

4.1 PubMed's Accessibility

PubMed is openly available globally, thus constituting an essential tool for researchers and physicians in low-resource environments (National Library of Medicine, 2023). But its interface requires knowledge of MeSH terms, which may be challenging for first-time users.

4.2 Dimensions.ai's Accessibility

Dimensions.ai offers a free as well as a paid option:

- The free one contains basic search as well as citation monitoring.
- The paid version has more sophisticated analytics, funding intelligence, and network mapping (Herzog et al., 2020).

Even though Dimensions.ai has richer perspectives, its more advanced capabilities are not publicly accessible, and hence it is less accessible than PubMed.

5. Strengths and Limitations

Strengths of PubMed:

- PubMed includes high-quality, peer-reviewed scientific literature and serves as the index for MEDLINE, PMC, and Bookshelf (National Library of Medicine, 2023).
- It is completely free, accessible anywhere, and ideal for resource-poor applications.
- Uses MeSH terms for enabling correct and reliable searches (Lowe & Barnett, 2009).
- Clinical trials filters, systematic review filters, Boolean operators are some of the well-organized advanced searching features.
- Respected in high regard as an evidence-based, authoritative source by legislators and physicians equally.

Limitations of PubMed:

- Depending on external resources like Scopus, Google Scholar, or Web of Science, there is no tracking of citations and effect analysis (Lu, 2011).
- Its applicability in trans disciplinary research is limited to the biomedical and biological sciences.
- They don't cover preprints, funding, and patents, nor early scientific breakthroughs.

- They are difficult to understand for novice users as they require MeSH terminology knowledge.

Strengths of Dimensions.ai:

- According to Hook et al. (2018), strengths of Dimensions.ai are its multi-disciplinary coverage of the biomedical, social sciences, engineering, and humanities.
- Its ease of tracking innovation is through its integration of papers, funding, clinical trials, patents, and databases (Herzog et al., 2020).
- Collaborative networks, Altmetric scores, and H-index are some examples of integrated citation analysis tools.
- Citation-based searching, funding-based tracking, and AI-driven search functionality (NLP). Data visualization tool in a modern, interactive environment.

Limitations of Dimensions.ai:

- The advanced tracking of citations, financial analysis, and visualization of networks need a paid version to exist.
- There may be some non-peer-reviewed material since it is less discriminating compared to PubMed.
- It is more complex for biomedical scientists as it covers non-medical sciences.
- Free version with limited capability, and one needs institutional access to be able to use all functions.

6. Final Verdict: When to Use Which?

Use Case	Recommended Database
Clinical and biomedical study	PubMed
Multidisciplinary study and funding analysis	Dimensions.ai
Citation tracking and research reach	Dimensions.ai
Evidence-based medicine and clinical trials	PubMed
Early-stage study (preprints and patents)	Dimensions.ai

Both databases complement each other: PubMed is ideal for high-quality biomedical study, while Dimensions.ai is ideal for citation tracking, financing analysis, and multidisciplinary analysis.

Conclusion: Both PubMed and Dimensions.ai are handy study tools that fulfill different purposes. PubMed is best suited for biological and clinical studies, as it offers high-quality, peer-reviewed journals. Yet, it does not offer citation tracking. Dimensions.ai offers a holistic view of the study ecosystem, such as citation metrics, funding information, and transdisciplinary research. PubMed remains the gold standard to medical researchers and doctors. Dimensions.ai, in contrast, is the best instrument for scientometric and bibliometric analysis. Researchers must choose the best equipment for their own purposes.

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AI and Data Science for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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Abstract

The agenda of Sustainable Development for 2030 presents an immense global challenge, requiring innovative and efficient solutions. This article investigates the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and big data analytics as fundamental influencers for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We have examined the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Analytics in accelerating progress toward the SDGs. Recent reports indicating that progress on many goals has obstruct or reversed, these technologies have emerged as indispensable contributors for addressing global challenges including poverty, health disparities, educational inequities, climate change, and sustainable urbanization. This paper synthesizes current literature, case studies, and emerging trends to provide a thorough understanding of how AI and data science are reshaping sustainable development efforts.

Keywords: *Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics, Big Data, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Ethical AI, SDGs 2030 Agenda.*

1. Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, established through the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, represents a landmark global commitment to addressing humanity's most pressing challenges. Despite this ambition, contemporary assessments indicate a significant implementation gap, with progress on numerous goals lagging established timelines, thereby jeopardizing the agenda's successful realization by 2030 [1-2]. This shortfall underscores an urgent necessity for innovative and scalable approaches capable of accelerating progress on a global scale.

In response to these implementation challenges, the fields of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Analytics have emerged as profoundly transformative forces. These technologies offer a powerful suite of tools for enhancing predictive modelling, optimizing resource allocation, and augmenting complex decision-making processes, thereby presenting a viable pathway to expedite progress across the full spectrum of the 17 SDGs [3]. The capacity of AI to process and analyse vast, heterogeneous datasets far exceeds human capabilities, enabling the identification of subtle patterns, correlations, and causal relationships that are crucial for designing effective interventions. This technological convergence allows for a more granular, evidence-based approach to tackling sustainability challenges, moving beyond traditional methodologies toward more dynamic and responsive strategies.

Specifically, the application of artificial intelligence holds substantial promise for advancing the SDGs by fostering data-driven insights and enabling the optimization of intricate systems. Comprehensive scholarly analyses have begun to systematically map the potential contributions of AI across various SDG-related domains, from precision agriculture (SDG 2) and intelligent energy grids (SDG 7) to diagnostic tools in healthcare (SDG 3) and climate change modelling (SDG 13) [4]. Consequently, the integration of advanced computational methods with sustainable development objectives constitutes a fundamental paradigm shift. It signifies a transition from conventional policy and development practices to a new era of technologically augmented governance, where data-informed strategies can more effectively target interventions, monitor progress in real-time, and adapt to evolving socio-ecological conditions, ultimately enhancing the prospect of achieving a sustainable and equitable future by 2030.

2. Literature Review and Current State

2.1 The Proliferation of Research at the Nexus of AI and Sustainable Development

The period following the 2015 adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals has been characterized by a burgeoning field of inquiry focused on the intersection of artificial intelligence and sustainable development. This academic domain has experienced an exponential growth trajectory, with bibliometric analyses documenting a dramatic proliferation of scholarly output [5]. This surge in

research activity is not merely coincidental but reflects a growing consensus within the scientific and policy communities regarding the profound potential of AI to serve as a foundational tool for achieving global sustainability targets. The concentration of this research in high-leverage domains—such as public health, renewable energy systems, climate change mitigation, and equitable education—further indicates a strategic alignment of intellectual capital with the most pressing global challenges [5]. Consequently, the conceptualization of AI has matured, transitioning from a niche technological curiosity to a mainstream, cross-cutting paradigm recognized as a universal enabler for sustainable development [4, 5].

2.2 A Comprehensive Impact Assessment of AI on the SDGs

A critical understanding of AI's role requires a nuanced evaluation of its dual-use potential. A seminal quantitative assessment published in *Nature Communications* provides one of the most comprehensive analyses to date, systematically mapping the potential impacts of AI across the entirety of the SDG framework. The study concludes that AI-based technologies may act as a significant enabler for 134 distinct targets, which accounts for 79% of the total, primarily through the facilitation of technological advancements and efficiency gains [3]. These enabling mechanisms range from enhancing data acquisition and processing capabilities for environmental monitoring to deploying sophisticated decision-support systems that optimize resource allocation in agriculture, energy, and urban planning. However, the same analysis offers a crucial note of caution, identifying that AI could concurrently inhibit progress on 59 targets (35%). These potential negative externalities are concentrated in areas related to socioeconomic inequality, such as job displacement due to automation; environmental degradation, stemming from the substantial energy consumption of large-scale computational infrastructure; and the perpetuation of systemic injustices through algorithmic bias. This dual impact underscores the critical imperative for robust, proactive, and ethical governance frameworks to steer AI development and deployment toward socially and environmentally beneficial outcomes [3].

2.3 AI as a Catalyst in an Era of Stagnating SDG Progress

The urgent need for transformative solutions is underscored by the sobering reality of current global progress. The United Nations' 2023 progress report on the SDGs presents a stark assessment, indicating that at the midway point to the 2030 deadline, the global community is severely off track. The report's findings are unequivocal: only an estimated 15% of the SDG targets are progressing as intended, while progress on over half is characterized as weak or insufficient. More alarmingly, for a significant portion of targets, progress has either stalled completely or gone into reverse [1]. This critical implementation gap between established goals and tangible outcomes has created an imperative for paradigm-shifting interventions. In this context, artificial intelligence is increasingly positioned not as an incremental tool but as a powerful catalyst capable of bridging this divide. The capacity of AI to accelerate data analysis, enhance predictive accuracy, and optimize complex systems is seen as essential for reinvigorating stalled efforts and realigning global action with the ambitious trajectory required to meet the 2030 targets [2, 6].

3. Core Contributions of AI and Data Analytics to SDGs

3.1 Artificial Intelligence as a Universal Enabler for Sustainable Development

The utility of artificial intelligence in the context of the 2030 Agenda is not confined to specific sectors; rather, it functions as a universal enabler and a cross-cutting accelerator for nearly all 17 SDGs. A primary mechanism through which AI achieves this is its capacity for enhanced prediction. Sophisticated machine learning algorithms can analyse vast historical and real-time datasets to produce highly accurate forecasts of complex phenomena, such as climatic patterns, epidemiological outbreaks, and macroeconomic trends, thereby enabling a crucial shift from reactive crisis management to proactive and pre-emptive interventions [7]. Building upon this predictive foundation, AI facilitates the advanced optimization of resources. In critical sectors like agriculture, energy, and healthcare, AI-driven systems can dynamically allocate financial, human, and natural resources to maximize efficiency and output, ensuring that limited assets generate the greatest possible sustainable impact [3]. This capacity for optimization further extends to the design of precision interventions, allowing policymakers to target support with unprecedented accuracy. For instance, AI models can identify the specific communities or households most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change or extreme poverty, ensuring that aid is directed where it is most needed [8]. Perhaps most critically for a global agenda, AI-powered systems offer a pathway to scalable solutions. By automating processes and codifying successful intervention strategies, these technologies can replicate effective programs across

diverse geographical and cultural contexts, overcoming the traditional logistical and financial barriers that have long hindered the scaling of development initiatives [6].

3.2 Data Analytics as the Foundation for Evidence-Based Sustainability Policy

The successful implementation and monitoring of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 associated targets are fundamentally contingent upon the availability of accurate, timely, and disaggregated data [9]. In this regard, data analytics serves as the indispensable foundation for constructing the evidence-based policy frameworks required to navigate the complexities of the 2030 Agenda. Advanced analytical techniques are instrumental in enhancing sustainability metrics through real-time monitoring and measurement, leveraging novel data streams from sources such as satellite imagery, Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, and mobile networks to track progress indicators with a granularity and immediacy previously unattainable [10]. By processing these complex, multi-source datasets, analytics enables the systematic identification of implementation gaps—pinpointing specific geographical areas or demographic groups that require immediate policy attention or a strategic reallocation of resources [9]. Beyond diagnosing current shortcomings, the application of predictive models supports performance forecasting, anticipating future challenges and opportunities to empower policymakers with the foresight needed for proactive governance. Furthermore, robust analytical methods are crucial for the quantitative impact assessment of policies and interventions, providing an empirical basis for evaluating effectiveness, ensuring accountability, and informing the iterative refinement of future strategies [11]. Therefore, the centrality of data and analytics to the realization of the SDGs cannot be overstated, as it underpins the entire policy cycle, from initial progress assessment and gap analysis to the formulation of informed policy and the strategic guidance of resource allocation [9, 11].

4. Specific Applications of Artificial Intelligence Across Key Sustainable Development Goals

The theoretical potential of AI and data analytics is substantiated by a growing portfolio of practical applications across various SDGs. While the impact is broad, certain domains have emerged as particularly advanced, demonstrating the tangible contributions of these technologies to global sustainability efforts.

4.1 Climate Action

The application of artificial intelligence to climate action represents one of the most mature and impactful areas of AI-for-SDG implementation. At the macro level, AI is revolutionizing climate science through advanced modelling. Landmark initiatives such as the European Space Agency's Destination Earth (DestinE) leverage AI and high-performance computing to construct comprehensive "digital twins" of Earth's climate system. These high-fidelity simulations provide an unprecedentedly granular understanding of complex climate dynamics, enhancing the accuracy of long-term projections and risk assessments [7]. Beyond modelling, AI is critical for climate adaptation and resilience. AI-powered platforms can ingest and analyse multimodal data streams—including satellite imagery, meteorological patterns, and historical event data—to predict the risk of climate-related disasters like wildfires and floods with increasing precision, thereby enabling proactive mitigation and optimizing the deployment of emergency response resources [12]. Furthermore, in the critical domain of emissions reduction, data analytics is foundational to the development of smart grids. These intelligent energy systems optimize electricity distribution, facilitate the seamless integration of variable renewable energy sources, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by enabling sophisticated demand-response mechanisms that balance supply and demand in real-time [3].

4.2 Health and Well-Being

While analyses suggest that AI is poised to make a significant impact across at least five key goals—namely Health (SDG 3), Education (SDG 4), Energy (SDG 7), Sustainable Cities (SDG 11), and Climate Action (SDG 13) [13]—its transformative role in global health is particularly profound. In the realm of clinical practice, deep learning algorithms are driving the shift toward precision medicine by analysing complex datasets encompassing genetic information, medical imaging, and electronic health records. This enables the formulation of highly personalized treatment plans that not only improve patient outcomes but also enhance the cost-effectiveness of healthcare delivery [14]. Concurrently, computer vision applications have achieved remarkable accuracy in diagnostic enhancement, often rivalling or exceeding human expert performance in the interpretation of medical images. This capability is instrumental for the early detection of diseases such as cancer and diabetic retinopathy, offering a scalable solution that is especially valuable in resource-constrained settings with a shortage of specialized radiologists [14]. On a population level, AI is bolstering pandemic

preparedness. Predictive models informed by global health data, human mobility patterns, and social determinants of health allow public health officials to forecast disease trajectories, implement proactive response strategies, and optimize the allocation of critical resources during health emergencies [15]. Finally, AI-powered telemedicine platforms are expanding healthcare access to remote and underserved populations through automated triage systems, intelligent symptom checkers, and initial treatment recommendation tools, thus helping to democratize access to quality care.

4.3 Quality Education

In the sphere of education, artificial intelligence is being deployed to create more personalized, accessible, and equitable learning environments. A primary innovation is the development of adaptive learning systems. These AI-driven platforms analyse individual learning patterns, speeds, and knowledge gaps to dynamically customize educational content and pacing for each student. This personalized approach is particularly beneficial for learners in underserved regions, where large class sizes often preclude individualized attention [16]. To further address resource disparities, AI-powered virtual assistants and tutors provide scalable, on-demand educational support, helping to bridge learning gaps in areas experiencing acute teacher shortages. Moreover, AI technologies are instrumental in advancing educational accessibility for students with disabilities. Applications of Natural Language Processing and computer vision enable real-time transcription, automated sign language recognition, and adaptive content formatting, thereby dismantling significant barriers to learning and fostering more inclusive educational ecosystems [16].

4.4 Zero Hunger and No Poverty

AI and data analytics offer powerful tools for addressing the foundational goals of eradicating poverty and hunger. For poverty alleviation (SDG 1), machine learning algorithms are being used for high-resolution poverty mapping and prediction. By analysing heterogeneous data sources such as satellite imagery, mobile phone usage data, and survey information, these models can identify pockets of poverty with a granularity that traditional census data cannot match, enabling governments and NGOs to design more accurately targeted policy interventions and social safety nets [8]. To combat hunger (SDG 2), the paradigm of precision agriculture leverages AI-driven systems to optimize crop yields and promote food security. These technologies monitor key variables like soil conditions, weather forecasts, and plant health in real-time to guide the precise application of water, fertilizers, and pesticides, thereby increasing productivity while minimizing environmental impact. Complementing this, supply chain analytics help reduce post-harvest food waste by optimizing logistics and storage [17]. Furthermore, AI contributes to poverty reduction through financial inclusion, as machine learning-based credit scoring systems can assess creditworthiness using alternative data sources, enabling financial institutions to extend services to previously unbanked populations and foster economic empowerment [18].

4.5 Sustainable Cities and Communities

As the world continues to urbanize, AI and data analytics are becoming essential for creating cities that are efficient, resilient, and sustainable. In the domain of smart urban planning, the analysis of large-scale data on population flows, public transport usage, and infrastructure stress patterns provides an evidence-based foundation for more effective urban development and land-use policies [19]. AI is also being deployed to optimize municipal services, such as waste management, where algorithms can predict waste generation patterns and optimize collection routes to save fuel and reduce operational costs, while also identifying opportunities for circular economy implementations. In transportation, predictive traffic management systems analyse real-time data to dynamically adjust traffic signals, reroute vehicles, and optimize public transportation schedules, which serves to reduce congestion, lower emissions, and improve overall urban mobility and liveability [19].

4.6 Gender Equality and Social Justice

Beyond operational efficiencies, AI offers novel, though complex, tools for advancing social justice, including gender equality (SDG 5) and strong institutions (SDG 16). One of the most critical applications in this area is the use of AI for bias detection and mitigation. While AI systems can inadvertently perpetuate societal biases, they can also be designed as auditing tools to monitor and identify systemic gender or racial bias in high-stakes domains like hiring algorithms, credit lending decisions, and public service delivery. The quantitative evidence generated by such audits can inform targeted policy reforms aimed at promoting greater equality [20]. Additionally, AI can advance empowerment through the targeted delivery of information. Customized systems can ensure that marginalized communities, particularly women and girls, receive crucial access to information

regarding essential services, legal rights, and economic opportunities, thereby fostering greater agency and social inclusion.

5. Overarching Challenges and Critical Limitations

5.1 Data and Infrastructural Deficiencies

Despite the transformative potential of AI, its effective and equitable application is fundamentally constrained by significant challenges related to data infrastructure, which disproportionately affect developing regions. A primary impediment is the pervasiveness of data gaps; the limited availability of high-quality, granular data in resource-constrained environments severely hampers the development and implementation of effective AI models, particularly for goals dependent on nuanced local information, such as No Poverty (SDG 1) and Zero Hunger (SDG 2) [10]. The very process of measuring SDG progression necessitates a robust and inclusive evaluation framework, which is entirely contingent on the availability and quality of underlying data [9]. Compounding this issue of data scarcity are persistent problems with data quality. The heterogeneity of data collection methodologies, the prevalence of incomplete datasets, and a global lack of standardization create formidable barriers to developing generalizable AI applications, undermining the reliability of insights drawn from such models [11]. These data-centric challenges are amplified by the broader structural issue of the digital divide. Unequal access to essential digital infrastructure—including internet connectivity, computational resources, and technical expertise—creates a paradoxical situation where the regions that could benefit most from AI are the least equipped to deploy it, thereby risking a distribution of benefits that exacerbates, rather than alleviates, existing global inequalities [21].

5.2 Ethical, Social, and Environmental Concerns

Beyond infrastructural limitations, the deployment of AI for sustainable development is fraught with profound ethical, social, and environmental concerns that demand careful consideration and proactive governance. A significant environmental paradox arises from the substantial energy consumption required for training large-scale AI models. The computational intensity of these processes carries a significant carbon footprint, which could inadvertently offset the climate benefits gained from AI applications if the underlying data centres are not powered by renewable energy sources [3, 22]. On the social and ethical front, the vast data collection required to fuel AI systems raises critical concerns regarding individual privacy and the potential for misuse. The aggregation of sensitive personal and community data creates vulnerabilities that could be exploited for mass surveillance or social control by both state and corporate actors, undermining fundamental human rights [21]. Furthermore, AI systems are susceptible to inheriting and amplifying societal biases present in their training data. Models trained on historically biased information may perpetuate or even exacerbate discrimination based on race, gender, or socioeconomic status, thereby actively undermining progress toward equality-focused SDGs such as Gender Equality (SDG 5) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10) [20]. Finally, there exists a risk of unintended consequences, where the enhanced insights provided by AI could be instrumentalized for unsustainable practices. For instance, the same AI-driven analysis that provides detailed data on ecosystem health could inadvertently facilitate the over-exploitation of natural resources by commercial interests if not accompanied by robust regulatory oversight and strong governance mechanisms [3].

6. Future Directions and Emerging Trends in AI for Sustainable Development

6.1 The Trajectory of Technological Evolution

Looking forward, the contribution of artificial intelligence to the Sustainable Development Goals is set to be profoundly shaped by ongoing technological evolution and the synergistic integration of complementary digital innovations. A pivotal development is the maturation of AI from primarily predictive to increasingly generative capabilities. While predictive AI excels at forecasting outcomes based on historical data, generative AI opens new frontiers by creating novel content, simulations, and solutions. This paradigm shift enables the rapid prototyping of complex SDG interventions and facilitates a new class of personalized social innovation, allowing for the development of highly contextualized and adaptive solutions to entrenched challenges in areas like education, health, and urban planning [6]. Concurrently, the efficacy of AI will be significantly amplified through its convergence with other emerging technologies. The integration of AI with the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain, and edge computing is poised to create a powerful, interconnected ecosystem for sustainability applications. In this model, IoT sensors provide vast, real-time data streams from the physical world; edge computing enables localized, low-latency data processing and decision-making; and blockchain offers a secure and transparent ledger for tracking assets and transactions. This

technological fusion promises to enhance capabilities for real-time monitoring, automated governance, and resilient decision-making across critical domains such as supply chain management, circular economies, and environmental monitoring [10].

6.2 The Imperative for Enhanced Collaborative and Governance Frameworks

Harnessing the full potential of these technological advancements is not a purely technical challenge; it is critically contingent upon the parallel development of robust collaborative structures and global governance frameworks. The complexity of applying AI to the SDGs necessitates the cultivation of deep, cross-disciplinary partnerships that bridge the traditional silos between policymakers, private industry, academic institutions, and civil society organizations. Such multi-stakeholder collaborations are crucial for co-creating solutions that are not only technologically sound but also ethically grounded and contextually appropriate. These partnerships are essential for improving foundational data infrastructure, collectively addressing profound ethical risks, and strategically targeting research and development efforts toward areas of highest potential impact for the SDGs [23]. On a global scale, effective and equitable deployment of AI requires a concerted push toward international cooperation to establish coherent governance frameworks. Initiatives like the proposed Global Digital Compact are emblematic of the growing recognition that shared principles and standards are needed to guide the development and application of digital technologies. Such international agreements are vital for harmonizing regulatory approaches, promoting data sharing for the public good, and establishing clear ethical guardrails. Ultimately, these global frameworks are indispensable for accelerating the responsible and ethical application of AI for the SDGs and ensuring that its transformative benefits are shared equitably across the global community, rather than widening the existing digital and developmental divides [24].

7. Conclusion

The integration of Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics represents a significant opportunity to accelerate progress toward the 2030 SDG targets. With AI demonstrating the potential to positively impact 79% of all SDG targets [3] and data analytics providing the foundation for evidence-based policy, these technologies are essential tools for global development. The research evidence clearly demonstrates that AI and data analytics are not merely technological solutions but fundamental enablers of systemic change across health, education, environment, and poverty reduction.

However, realizing this potential requires addressing significant challenges, including data infrastructure gaps, ethical concerns about bias and privacy, and the digital divide [10, 21]. The future of AI for sustainable development lies in responsible deployment that prioritizes equity, transparency, and environmental sustainability. This requires unprecedented collaboration between all stakeholders, supported by robust international governance frameworks.

As we approach the 2030 deadline, the urgency of implementing these solutions has never been greater. The evidence suggests that AI and data analytics, when deployed responsibly, represent our best opportunity to bridge the gap between current progress and the SDG targets [1, 6]. Success will depend on our collective ability to harness these powerful tools while mitigating their risks and ensuring their benefits reach those who need them most.

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Next-Generation Libraries: Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies

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Abstract: *The next-generation libraries are transforming into dynamic centers that integrate traditional knowledge resources with innovative digital technologies. Artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging tools like machine learning, natural language processing, large language models, augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR), and the Internet of Things (IoT) are reshaping library operations and enhancing user experiences. These technologies enable intelligent cataloging, semantic discovery, automated metadata creation, personalized recommendation systems, immersive virtual learning, and advanced digital preservation. By utilizing AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants, libraries can deliver 24/7 reference services and improve accessibility for diverse communities. However, this transformation also introduces critical challenges, such as data privacy, ethical algorithm use, equitable access, and implementation costs. Addressing these challenges is crucial to ensure that innovation benefits all users. This review highlights the opportunities and challenges associated with AI-driven advancements, positioning libraries as inclusive, future-ready centers for learning, research, and community engagement in the digital era.*

Keywords: Next-generation libraries; Artificial intelligence; Machine learning; Emerging technologies; Large language models; Natural language processing.

1. Introduction:

Libraries have traditionally been viewed as stewards of knowledge, granting access to books, manuscripts, and other materials that aid in learning, research, and the preservation of culture. However, in the 21st century, libraries are experiencing a significant shift, influenced by rapid advancements in digital technologies. The advent of artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, natural language processing, large language models, augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR), and the Internet of Things (IoT) has transformed how information is produced, accessed, and managed. These innovations are establishing the basis for what is often termed 'next-generation libraries.' Unlike conventional libraries that primarily emphasized physical collections, next-generation libraries are vibrant, technology-enhanced ecosystems that focus on accessibility, personalization, and user engagement. AI-driven systems now enable automated cataloging, intelligent search, predictive analytics, and digital

preservation, while immersive technologies like AR/VR provide interactive learning environments. Despite these advancements, challenges such as ethical issues, costs, equity, and digital literacy remain critical to their adoption.

2. Literature Review:

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) along with emerging technologies into library systems has drawn significant scholarly interest over the past decade. Researchers point out that libraries are transitioning from their traditional functions to become digital knowledge hubs that are powered by intelligent systems (Xia et al., 2022). The use of AI and machine learning is progressively being implemented to enhance cataloging, automate the generation of metadata, and improve information retrieval, thus minimizing human effort and increasing efficiency (International Journal of Library and Information Studies [IJLSIT], 2023). Large language models (LLMs) and natural language processing (NLP) have emerged as groundbreaking tools that facilitate semantic search, personalized recommendations, and multilingual accessibility. For example, Columbia University Libraries have engaged in experiments with AI-enhanced discovery systems to provide more intuitive and context-aware search experiences (Columbia University, 2023). Such innovations highlight the expanding potential of conversational and intelligent systems in improving user engagement.

3. Emerging Technology with Artificial Intelligence:

Emerging technology refers to innovations that are currently in the preliminary stages of development but hold the promise of significantly affecting society, industries, and daily life. Although these technologies are not fully developed, they are evolving quickly, introducing new capabilities and altering existing frameworks. The combination of emerging technologies with artificial intelligence (AI) amplifies their effectiveness, as AI facilitates learning, adaptation, and intelligent decision-making. Some key emerging technologies that often integrate with AI include:

Machine Learning (ML): A principal segment of AI that allows systems to process data, detect patterns, and enhance their performance without the necessity of explicit programming.

Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Large Language Models (LLMs): Instruments like ChatGPT that facilitate machines in understanding, interpreting, and generating human language.

Robotics and Automation: AI-enabled robots carry out sophisticated tasks in fields such as healthcare, manufacturing, logistics, and even libraries (for example, automated book-sorting).

Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR): Artificial Intelligence enhances immersive experiences, including personalized learning simulations and virtual library explorations. Therefore, the integration of emerging technology with AI can be characterized as a collaboration of innovative digital tools augmented by intelligent systems, providing efficiency, inclusivity, and solutions that are prepared for the future.

4. Role of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries:

- The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping how libraries function, oversee resources, and cater to their patrons. Historically, libraries were regarded as mere collections of books and information, but with the adoption of AI, they are transitioning into intelligent, interactive, and user-oriented knowledge hubs. Information Retrieval and Search Artificial Intelligence enhances catalog searching by enabling semantic search and natural language processing (NLP). Instead of relying solely on keyword-based results, AI-enhanced search engines grasp user intent and yield more accurate, personalized results. Chatbots and virtual assistants available in libraries can instantly respond to user queries.
- Personalized Services AI examines user behavior, reading history, and preferences to recommend books, articles, or digital content. Similar to the recommendation systems employed by platforms like Netflix or Amazon, libraries can provide customized suggestions to their readers.

5.Objectives:

- To investigate the impact of Artificial Intelligence on the evolution of conventional library services into intelligent, user-focused systems.
- To assess the potential of emerging technologies including machine learning, natural language processing, augmented reality/virtual reality, blockchain, and the Internet of Things in library functions and services.
- To analyze the ways in which these technologies improve cataloging, information retrieval, knowledge management, and the overall user experience.

6. Emerging Technologies in Libraries:

Libraries have historically adapted to technological developments to address the information needs of their clientele. In the current digital landscape, new technologies are redefining libraries as interactive, user-centric educational hubs rather than just storage spaces for books. These technologies enhance information accessibility, optimize management, and introduce novel services for researchers, students, and the general public.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning

AI enhances intelligent search, automates cataloging, and provides personalized recommendations. Virtual assistants and chatbots function as 24/7 digital librarians, offering real-time guidance to users. Machine learning supports research, anticipates trends, and examines large data sets.

Robotics and Automation

The use of robots facilitates book sorting, shelving, and inventory management. Automated circulation systems and self-checkout options increase convenience for users. Robotics enable libraries to optimize their routine workflows, resulting in time savings for staff.

Internet of Things (IoT)

Smart technology and RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) tags are utilized to track books and resources. IoT systems contribute to improved security, space management, and energy efficiency. Users are able to receive immediate updates on resource availability through interconnected systems.

7. Opportunities for Next-Generation Libraries:

In the 21st century, libraries are witnessing a remarkable change. Transitioning from conventional book repositories, they are becoming dynamic knowledge hubs, fueled by digital tools and innovative services. The libraries of the next generation prioritize the combination of technology, accessibility, and community engagement to cater to the shifting requirements of users.

- **Digital Transformation** The advent of e-books, e-journals, and online databases provides libraries with an opportunity to enhance their collections beyond mere physical shelves. Cloud computing allows for global accessibility, enabling users to connect with resources at any time and from any place.
- **Personalized User Experience** Libraries utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics to present personalized recommendations according to user preferences and previous usage. • The implementation of virtual assistants and chatbots ensures continuous guidance, thereby increasing user satisfaction.

8. Challenges in Adopting AI and Emerging Technologies in Libraries

- The amalgamation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other innovative technologies is reshaping libraries. However, this evolution is fraught with challenges. Libraries confront multiple barriers—technical, financial, ethical, and social—that can impede or complicate the adoption process.
- **High Cost of Implementation** Sophisticated technologies including AI, robotics, IoT, and VR demand considerable financial resources for hardware, software, and infrastructure. • A significant number of libraries, especially in developing regions, encounter difficulties stemming from limited funding and are unable to pursue large-scale adoption.
- **Lack of Skilled Professionals** The operation and upkeep of innovative technologies demand specialized technical abilities. Numerous library staff members are not properly trained in AI, data analytics, or digital systems, which creates a gap in skills.

9. Future Outlook of Libraries with AI and Emerging Technologies:

Libraries are evolving beyond traditional physical spaces filled with books; they are swiftly becoming intelligent, digital, and user-oriented knowledge ecosystems. The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies is redefining the future of libraries, ensuring they stay relevant, inclusive, and innovative in the digital era.

- **Smart Libraries**

Future libraries are set to feature AI-enhanced systems, IoT devices, and automation solutions. These advanced libraries will deliver customized services, proactive resource management, and smooth access to both physical and digital collections.

- **Human–AI Collaboration**

Librarians will not be substituted; instead, they will collaborate with AI tools. Tasks that are routine, such as cataloging, classification, and circulation, will be automated, permitting professionals to dedicate their efforts to research support, digital literacy, and community engagement.

10. Limitations:

Lack of Methodological Clarity

- The text resembles a thematic summary but fails to indicate whether the study constitutes a literature review, a conceptual paper, or a case study. This ambiguity could potentially undermine its scholarly accuracy.
- While the text addresses opportunities and challenges, it fails to reference any specific studies, projects, or libraries. As a result, the abstract appears more general and lacks grounding in real-world or empirical evidence.

Conclusion

Next-generation libraries are evolving beyond being simple static collections of books and journals; they are becoming dynamic, technology-driven ecosystems. The integration of Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies such as machine learning, natural language processing, AR/VR, blockchain, and IoT is reshaping how libraries organize, manage, and provide knowledge. These innovations support intelligent cataloging, immersive learning, secure data management, and personalized user experiences, making libraries more engaging and accessible.

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Role of libraries in Achieving sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) : An Overview.

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Abstract :-

Libraries play a vital role in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by promoting literacy, information access, and cultural preservation. Recognized as key social organizations driving innovation and development, libraries were integrated into international efforts supporting the 2030 Agenda. The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) actively contributed to shaping the agenda, advocating for global literacy, ICT access, cultural heritage protection, and, notably, public access to information under SDG 16. Target 16.10 specifically emphasizes ensuring public access to information and safeguarding fundamental freedoms, while related targets include culture (11.4) and ICT (5b, 9c, 17.8). To strengthen libraries' contributions, IFLA launched the International Advocacy Program (IAP) in 2016, conducting regional workshops worldwide. The Oman Libraries and Information Association supported these initiatives by participating in workshops, hosting seminars, and submitting reports to enhance awareness and implementation of the SDGs among information professionals.

Keywords— IFLA; Association; Libraries; UNSD Goals.

Introduction :-

The UN 2030 Agenda is a global call to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all. Adopted by 193 Member States in 2015 and effective from 2016, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are interconnected, requiring collaborative action across multiple issues. While not legally binding, governments are expected to establish national frameworks and use monitoring, data collection, and reporting to drive progress. Even when not explicitly mentioned, the SDGs address critical concerns such as poverty reduction, health, justice, and anti-corruption efforts. Libraries worldwide play a pivotal role in advancing these goals by promoting literacy, offering free access to information, and providing safe, inclusive community spaces. Supported by dedicated staff who understand local needs, libraries also foster digital inclusion through ICT access, internet connectivity, and skills development. By

promoting creativity, innovation, and knowledge sharing, libraries empower communities and contribute significantly to achieving all the SDGs.

Libraries worldwide significantly contribute to achieving all 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by empowering communities through access to information, education, and resources.

SDG 1 - End poverty in all: Libraries empower people with knowledge and informed choices, while mobile libraries bring books, services, and internet to remote communities, reducing isolation and expanding opportunities for all.

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger: Agricultural libraries provide farmers with research, data on crops, market trends, and sustainable farming methods, helping to improve food security and develop resilient agricultural systems. Public and community libraries support rural development by promoting literacy, ICT training, and access to government services and funding in local languages. They also foster partnerships to enhance local agricultural initiatives.

SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being: Medical and hospital libraries deliver vital medical research to improve clinical and public health outcomes. Public libraries provide reliable health information, build health literacy skills, and assist vulnerable groups like immigrants and homeless individuals. Services include health insurance guidance, first-aid training, and resources for healthier lifestyles.

SDG 4 – Quality Education: Libraries are integral to schools, universities, and colleges, offering safe learning spaces, literacy programs, and research support. They provide after-school help, computer classes, and programs targeting subjects with high failure rates. By establishing local learning centers, libraries facilitate lifelong learning opportunities and enable access to global knowledge.

SDG 5 – Gender Equality: Libraries empower women and girls by offering access to information about their rights, health, ICT skills, and literacy programs. They run coding clubs, entrepreneurship training, and provide safe spaces for women to learn, network, and access the internet or technology training.

SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation: Libraries provide access to essential data on water, energy, and sanitation, supporting policymakers and development organizations in allocating resources effectively for sustainable water infrastructure and sanitation projects.

SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy: In many rural areas, libraries are the only places offering reliable light and electricity, enabling people to read, study, or apply for jobs. Some libraries use solar panels or generators to power public-access computers and internet services, supporting community meetings and device charging.

SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth: Libraries provide ICT access and training, helping individuals apply for jobs, prepare CVs, submit applications, and scan documents. Employment clubs at some libraries allow job-seekers to share tips, resources, and encouragement, fostering inclusive economic growth.

SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure: Libraries serve as hubs for research, technology, and innovation. They offer access to quality information, research infrastructure, and

business centers that provide entrepreneurship training, legal advice, and financial guidance to help start and grow businesses.

SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities: Libraries promote equitable access to information, freedom of expression, and civic engagement. They provide safe, inclusive spaces open to all, reducing inequalities by reaching marginalized groups, fostering community engagement, and partnering with civil society organizations and local governments.

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities: Libraries preserve documentary heritage and cultural resources, strengthening community identity and inclusivity. They provide safe spaces for older people, immigrants, refugees, and those experiencing homelessness, offering opportunities for cultural participation and social interaction that support sustainable urban development.

SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production: Libraries embody sustainability by sharing resources within communities and across borders. Beyond books and media, they loan tools, instruments, and appliances, reducing waste and environmental impact. Libraries with 3D printers and digital manufacturing resources encourage creativity and recycling, promoting sustainable production and consumption.

SDG 13 – Climate Action: Libraries provide reliable data and long-term preservation of environmental information, ensuring future access to climate research. They raise awareness about climate change among youth and the public, supporting informed decision-making and collaborative efforts to mitigate and adapt to its effects.

SDG 14 – Life Below Water: Libraries support sustainable ocean and marine resource management by preserving and providing access to critical data, research, and information on fishing practices, water management, and marine conservation.

SDG 15 – Life on Land: By offering open access to biodiversity research and literature, libraries help protect terrestrial ecosystems, forests, and wildlife. Botanical and forest libraries educate younger generations on respecting and conserving nature to combat deforestation, desertification, and biodiversity loss.

SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions: Libraries are trusted sources of information, equipping citizens, governments, and institutions to organize and use knowledge effectively. They teach information literacy and provide open access to resources that strengthen accountability, justice, and inclusive governance.

SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals: Libraries build partnerships across sectors, collaborating with governments, civil society, and private organizations to deliver community-based programs. These partnerships engage and empower citizens, strengthening societies and supporting **the implementation of all SDGs.**

Libraries' Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Libraries and their organizations are key players in advancing the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Acting as knowledge hubs, they provide access to information that empowers communities to tackle global challenges. Even before the SDGs were launched, groups like the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

(IFLA) actively advocated and planned for libraries' involvement. Access to information—central to libraries' missions—supports sustainable development by fostering literacy, informed decisions, and skill-building. Specific SDG targets, such as 4.7 (education for sustainable development), 12.8 (awareness of sustainable consumption), 13.3 (climate education), and 16.10 (public access to information), highlight their importance. Libraries reduce poverty (Goal 1) by offering skills and job resources, enhance food security (Goal 2) through agricultural knowledge, and strengthen partnerships to build a fairer, sustainable future.

IFLA and Global Advocacy

IFLA has played a key role in integrating libraries into the UN's SDG framework. Through its International Advocacy Program (IAP), launched in 2016, it raises SDG awareness, trains librarians worldwide, and empowers them to influence policies and support communities (Choh et al., 2017). The 2019 Global Vision report highlighted shared goals among libraries and the need to connect local and global efforts. In Oman, the Libraries and Information Association's participation in IFLA workshops linked local initiatives with global advocacy, promoting libraries as essential SDG partners and strengthening global collaboration.

Population and Social Development

Population growth challenges, especially in vulnerable communities, are worsened by inadequate access to reliable information (United Nations, 2014). Libraries, as trusted community hubs, play a vital role in educating people on family planning, reproductive health, and related topics (Philbin et al., 2019). By engaging marginalized groups such as rural residents, adolescents, and the urban poor, libraries help reduce dependency, tackle unemployment, and enhance quality of life. Additionally, effective library services contribute to broader development efforts, including e-government, healthcare communication, agriculture, and empowering citizens with knowledge and resources.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Food Security

Libraries play a pivotal role in strengthening agriculture and nutrition systems by providing evidence-based information for policymaking and extension services. They organize, repack, and distribute agricultural data tailored to farmers' needs (Rhoe et al., 2010). Libraries also function as community centers for knowledge sharing and dialogue, enabling partnerships and local action plans for sustainable farming, improved postharvest practices, and marketing of nutritious products. EIFL (2014) found that programs such as health reading and computer training for rural youth improved understanding of hygiene, diet, and farming techniques, demonstrating libraries' impact on community well-being.

Education and Skills Development

Libraries underpin education by introducing children to reading, supporting researchers, and enhancing literacy. They provide non-formal education, ICT access, and networks that expand opportunities beyond schools or communities (Dent & Yannotta, 2005). Students using library resources show improved academic performance and functional knowledge compared to peers without access. Libraries also promote lifelong learning, adult literacy, and skill development in

entrepreneurship, technology, and social competencies—essential for national human resource development and economic progress.

Healthcare and Vulnerable Populations

Libraries contribute to healthcare by offering community health information services and training. For instance, EIFL (2015) reported that libraries providing e-health resources, internet access, and training significantly improved health outcomes. In one case, 20% more mothers who used a library regularly used mosquito nets, reducing disease risk. Public libraries are increasingly inclusive, equipping staff to serve vulnerable populations such as the homeless, immigrants, and socially disadvantaged groups (Solina et al., 2019).

ICT and Innovation

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are critical enablers of all SDGs, especially Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). ICT access through libraries accelerates progress in education, healthcare, financial services, and sustainable practices. Initiatives like #ICT4SDG and the Digital Transformation Framework (DTF) show how digital tools—from mobile apps to data analytics—can reduce poverty, hunger, and inequality while fostering economic growth. Libraries providing public internet access and training help bridge the digital divide, enabling communities to participate in the knowledge economy.

Democracy, Housing, and Equality

Sustainable Development Goals are rooted in human rights and democratic principles. Goal 16 upholds rule of law, justice, and accountability, while Goals 5 and 10 focus on gender equality and reducing inequalities. Libraries play a key role in fostering civic engagement, safeguarding freedoms, and amplifying marginalized voices. Adequate housing supports health, education, and economic stability, reducing inequality and strengthening communities. Despite progress, gender equality faces barriers like discriminatory laws, child marriage, and gender-based violence. Achieving SDG 5 demands strong political will, investments, and reforms, recognizing women's empowerment as vital to sustainable development.

Environment, Climate, and Science

Environmental sustainability is central to many SDGs, urging nations to align policies with biodiversity protection, waste reduction, and sustainable consumption. Progress depends on strong partnerships, coherent policies, and reliable data. Climate change remains critical, with global emissions reaching 57.1 gigatons of CO₂ in 2023 (UNEP, 2024). Urgent, transformative measures are required to limit warming to 1.5°C through significant emissions cuts and effective Paris Agreement implementation. Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) offer solutions for renewable energy, sustainable farming, clean water, and responsible production. Collaborative initiatives like the STI Forum and India's roadmaps highlight the role of digital transformation and green technologies.

Conclusion

Sustainable development requires a holistic approach where every sector contributes, and libraries are central to this vision. As demonstrated in Uganda's Vision 2040, access to timely, reliable information on critical issues—food security, health, democracy, population, gender

equality, environment, and technology—is indispensable for socio-economic transformation. Libraries must go beyond traditional services, forming collaborations at local, national, and global levels to amplify their impact. By providing knowledge, fostering innovation, empowering communities, and advocating for equitable policies, libraries act as linchpins of progress. Their contributions to the SDGs ensure not only informed societies but also inclusive, resilient, and thriving nations worldwide.

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Capacity Building, Digital Literacy, and Information Access for Inclusive Development

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Abstract: *Unprecedented prospects for social, educational, and economic change have been brought about by the digital age. However, there is a continuing digital divide as a result of the unequal distribution of the advantages of technology across populations. In order to promote equitable development, this article examines the interrelated functions of information access, digital literacy, and capacity building. It highlights how underprivileged people continue to be left out of development processes in the absence of sufficient digital skills, infrastructure, and fair access to information. This article outlines the difficulties, best practices, and tactics for using information and communication technologies (ICTs) to achieve equitable growth, drawing on case studies from around the world, policy frameworks, and theoretical viewpoints.*

Keywords: *Capacity building, digital literacy, information access, inclusive development, ICT, knowledge society, digital divide.*

1. Introduction:

Access to information and proficiency with digital technology have become essential for development in the twenty-first century. The emergence of the global knowledge society highlights how information and communication technologies (ICTs) can revolutionize economic growth, governance, healthcare, and education. However, if disadvantaged groups do not have the chances, finances, or skills to take advantage of technological advancements, there is a risk that in equality may worsen. Three pillars—capacity building, digital literacy, and information access—allow people and communities to take part in and profit from digital growth. Digital literacy gives people the skills to use digital platforms responsibly, capacity building gives them lifelong skills and competencies, and equitable information access guarantees inclusivity in the development process. which guarantees that no person or community is left behind.

2. Literature Review:

- **Capacity Building**

Building capacity entails enhancing people's, organizations', and communities' capacity to adapt to changing circumstances. "The process through which individuals, organizations, and societies attain, strengthen, and sustain the skills to design and accomplish their own development objectives" is how the UNDP (2009) defines capacity development. ICT training, policy creation, leadership development, and institutional fortification are all examples of capacity building in the digital context.

- **Digital Literacy**

Digital literacy encompasses more than just computer proficiency; it also includes the capacity to appropriately assess, produce, and distribute information online. It is defined by UNESCO (2018) as the capacity to use digital technology to safely and appropriately access, manage, comprehend, integrate, communicate, evaluate, and generate information. By enabling citizens to participate in social networking, online business, e-governance, and education, digital literacy improves engagement in contemporary society.

- **Information Access**

The right and capacity to look for, get, and disseminate information via a variety of mediums is known as information access. E-learning platforms, digital libraries, and open access programs all contribute to the democratization of knowledge. However, because of obstacles relating to infrastructure, the economy, and policy, the "information rich" and "information poor" divide still exists (Castells, 2010).

- **Inclusive Development**

The focus of inclusive development is on equal participation and opportunity. Sen's 1999 book *Development as Freedom* makes the case that human liberties, not just economic progress, should be used to measure development. In the digital age, attaining such independence requires having access to knowledge and being digitally literate.

3.Objectives of the Study:

- To investigate the connection between information access, digital literacy, and capacity building.
To examine how these elements support inclusive growth.
- To determine what obstacles stand in the way of digital inclusion.
- To provide methods for developing fair digital ecosystems.

4.Research Methodology:

Secondary data from qualitative research served as the foundation for this work. Case studies, scholarly publications, and international reports (UNESCO, World Bank, UNDP, and ITU) were examined. To assess international best practices in information access, digital literacy, and capacity building, a comparative analysis was carried out.

5.Findings and Discussion:

The Role of Capacity Building

At the individual level: Promotes self-confidence, entrepreneurial potential, and employability. Institutional level: Makes libraries, schools, and non-governmental organizations more capable of serving as centers for digital inclusion. At the national level: Aids in the creation of policies by governments to close the digital divide. Case Study: India's Digital India initiative shows how e-governance and financial inclusion may be improved by increasing rural communities' capabilities through training in digital skills.

6.Importance of Digital Literacy:

Passive users become active knowledge producers when they possess digital literacy. It makes lifelong learning and online education possible. using e-governance to participate in democratic processes. evaluating internet content critically and minimizing false information. protection from online risks by being knowledgeable of security and digital ethics. Case Study: By including digital literacy into the curriculum, Estonia has developed a highly ICT-savvy populace that supports robust digital governance.

7. Equitable Information Access:

- Access to information bridges socio-economic gaps by providing opportunities for learning, innovation, and entrepreneurship. However, challenges persist:
- Poor ICT infrastructure in rural areas.
- High costs of internet connectivity.
- Language barriers in accessing digital content.
- Gender and disability-based digital exclusion.

Case Study: Kenya's M-Pesa mobile banking platform highlights how improving access to digital financial information and services can empower marginalized populations.

8.Inclusive Development through ICTs:

- When citizens are empowered with digital literacy, supported by capacity building, and granted equitable access to information, inclusive development flourishes. Benefits include:
- Improved education outcomes through e-learning.
- Greater economic participation via e-commerce.
- Better healthcare access through telemedicine.
- Strengthened democracy through informed citizen engagement.

9.Challenges:

1. Digital Divide: Urban–rural and global North–South disparities.
2. Affordability: High cost of devices and internet services.
3. Infrastructure Gaps: Inadequate broadband and electricity in rural areas.
4. Cultural and Language Barriers: Lack of localized digital content.
5. Gender Inequality: Women face social and cultural restrictions in accessing ICTs.
6. Cybersecurity Risks: Lack of awareness exposes vulnerable groups to online fraud and exploitation.

10.Recommendations:

- Policy Integration: Governments should integrate digital literacy and ICT training into national education systems.
- Community-Based Programs: Strengthen libraries and community centers as digital inclusion hubs.
- Localized Content Development: Promote digital resources in regional languages for inclusivity.

- Public–Private Partnerships: Collaborate with tech companies to expand infrastructure and affordable internet.
- Inclusive Policies: Prioritize marginalized groups—women, rural populations, differently-abled individuals—in ICT strategies.
- Continuous Monitoring: Establish mechanisms to measure digital inclusion progress using indicators like ICT penetration and digital literacy rates.

Conclusion:

Capacity building, digital literacy, and equitable information access are interdependent elements critical for inclusive development. Societies that fail to invest in these areas risk perpetuating inequality and digital exclusion. Conversely, societies that strengthen capacity building, promote digital literacy, and democratize access to information can achieve sustainable development goals and empower their citizens. Policymakers, educators, librarians, and ICT providers must work together to ensure that technological progress translates into inclusive growth for all.

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DIGITAL PRESERVATION TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

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Abstract

In the digital age, the preservation of electronic records and digital assets has become a critical concern for libraries, archives, museums, and institutions worldwide. Digital preservation involves a series of managed activities necessary to ensure continued access to digital materials for as long as necessary. This paper explores the various tools and techniques used in digital preservation, such as migration, emulation, metadata standards, and checksum validation. It also examines prominent digital preservation systems and software, including LOCKSS, Archivematica, and Preservica. The study highlights the challenges of digital obsolescence, data degradation, and long-term accessibility, offering strategies for ensuring digital continuity. Through an evaluation of current practices, the paper underscores the importance of a proactive, policy-driven, and technologically updated approach to sustainable digital preservation. This study seeks to address these concerns by identifying and evaluating the strengths, limitations, and applicability of existing digital preservation tools and techniques.

Keywords : Digital preservation, electronic records, digital continuity, data integrity, metadata standards, migration, emulation, LOCKSS, digital archives, long-term access.

Introduction

The rapid evolution of digital technology has transformed the way information is created, stored, and accessed. From academic research and government records to cultural heritage and personal data, vast amounts of valuable information now exist only in digital form. However, digital content is inherently fragile due to factors such as technological obsolescence, media degradation, software incompatibility, and cybersecurity threats. Without effective digital preservation strategies, there is a real risk of permanent data loss. Digital preservation refers to the processes and activities involved in maintaining and ensuring the accessibility, usability, and authenticity of digital resources over time. It encompasses a wide range of tools and techniques designed to protect digital assets from loss, corruption, or obsolescence. Key techniques include format migration, emulation, digital forensics, and the use of metadata for documentation and retrieval. Specialized tools and platforms—such as Archivematica, DSpace, LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe), and Preservica—are widely adopted to automate and support digital preservation workflows. As organizations and institutions increasingly rely on digital formats to store vital information, the importance of implementing robust digital preservation strategies cannot be overstated. This paper aims to explore the major tools and techniques used in digital preservation, assess their effectiveness, and highlight best practices for ensuring the longevity and integrity of digital content in a constantly changing technological environment.

Aims and Objectives

Aim:

The primary aim of this study is to analyze and evaluate various digital preservation tools and techniques to ensure the long-term accessibility, integrity, and usability of digital resources across different platforms and institutions.

Objectives:

1. To define the concept of digital preservation and understand its importance in the modern information environment.
2. To identify the challenges and risks associated with preserving digital content, including technological obsolescence and data degradation.
3. To examine key digital preservation techniques such as migration, emulation, and the use of metadata standards.
4. To explore widely-used digital preservation tools and systems, including LOCKSS, Archive Matica, DSpace, and Preservica.
5. To evaluate the effectiveness and limitations of these tools in various institutional contexts, such as libraries, archives, and museums.

Review of Literature

Digital preservation has emerged as a crucial field of study and practice due to the increasing reliance on digital formats for storing knowledge, cultural heritage, and institutional memory. Scholars and practitioners have emphasized the importance of proactive strategies, tools, and frameworks to ensure the longevity of digital assets.

Lavoie (2014) provides a foundational understanding of digital preservation concepts and frameworks in his report for the OCLC Research. He highlights the OAIS (Open Archival Information System) reference model as a widely accepted framework that guides the management of digital preservation systems. OAIS has become the backbone of many digital preservation strategies implemented across institutions.

Conway (2010) discusses the risks associated with digital data, including technological obsolescence, media failure, and insufficient metadata. He stresses the need for institutions to adopt both policy and technical solutions to mitigate these risks effectively.

Rosenthal et al. (2005) present LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) as a decentralized and cost-effective preservation system. This tool emphasizes redundancy and self-healing mechanisms to preserve web-published content, making it a valuable tool particularly for academic libraries.

Giaretta (2011) in "Advanced Digital Preservation" explores more advanced techniques such as emulation and encapsulation. He also discusses digital curation lifecycles, highlighting how tools like Preservica and Archivematica support preservation workflows through automation and standards compliance.

Yakel et al. (2007) examine user expectations and the role of metadata in digital preservation. They conclude that detailed metadata not only enhances discoverability but is also essential for verifying authenticity and ensuring interoperability across systems.

Beagrie and Jones (2008) emphasize the importance of institutional policies and collaboration in digital preservation. Their research with JISC projects shows how planning and policy development directly influence the success of digital preservation initiatives.

Research Methodology

The research methodology for this study on digital preservation tools and techniques is designed to gather, analyze, and interpret data related to the implementation, effectiveness, and challenges of various digital preservation strategies. This section outlines the research design, data collection methods, data analysis techniques, and scope of the study.

1. Research Design:

This study follows a descriptive and analytical research design. It aims to describe current digital preservation practices and evaluate the performance of various tools and techniques through qualitative and quantitative analysis.

2. Data Collection Methods:

Semi-structured interviews with digital archivists, librarians, and IT professionals were conducted to gain firsthand insights into the tools they use and the challenges they face. Distributed to professionals in academic institutions, archives, and libraries to collect data on the types of digital preservation tools used, their effectiveness, and frequency of updates. Academic journals, case studies, books, and conference proceedings were reviewed to understand theoretical frameworks and the evolution of digital preservation techniques. Official documentation from digital preservation software such as Archivematica, Preservica, and DSpace was analyzed.

3. Sampling Technique:

A purposive sampling method was used to select professionals and institutions actively engaged in digital preservation. This approach ensures that respondents have relevant experience and expertise in the field.

Statement of the Problem

In today's digital era, vast amounts of information are created, stored, and shared in electronic formats across institutions, including libraries, archives, museums, and academic organizations. While digital content offers the advantage of easy access and efficient storage, it also faces significant threats such as technological obsolescence, data corruption, software incompatibility, and cyberattacks. Without effective digital preservation strategies, valuable data and cultural heritage risk being permanently lost. Despite the availability of various digital preservation tools and techniques—such as migration, emulation, metadata standards, and automated preservation systems—many institutions struggle with choosing the right tools, implementing consistent policies, and maintaining long-term access to digital assets. Limited financial resources, lack of technical expertise, and the absence of institutional commitment further complicate preservation efforts. The problem, therefore, lies in understanding which tools and techniques are most effective, how they can be integrated into different organizational contexts, and what practices are essential for ensuring the long-term usability, authenticity, and accessibility of digital information. Addressing this issue is critical for preserving knowledge and ensuring that future generations have access to today's digital heritage.

In the modern digital era, the creation and storage of information in electronic formats have become the norm across institutions, including libraries, archives, museums, and government agencies. While this shift offers greater efficiency and accessibility, it also introduces significant challenges related to the long-term preservation of digital content. Digital files are vulnerable to media degradation, software and hardware obsolescence, format

incompatibility, and cybersecurity threats, all of which threaten the integrity, usability, and accessibility of vital information.

Need of the Study

The digital revolution has transformed how information is produced, stored, and accessed across the globe. Today, critical data—ranging from research outputs and historical records to government documents and cultural artifacts—exists primarily in digital formats. However, this digital content is vulnerable to risks such as hardware failure, software obsolescence, cyber threats, and insufficient preservation planning. As digital information continues to grow exponentially, the need to protect it for future access becomes more urgent. Many organizations lack the knowledge, infrastructure, or resources to implement reliable digital preservation systems. Without proper tools and techniques, valuable digital content is at risk of degradation or loss, which can have serious consequences for research, education, policy-making, and cultural memory. Provide recommendations for selecting and implementing appropriate preservation strategies. Support libraries, archives, and other organizations in developing sustainable digital preservation policies.

Scope and Limitation

Scope:

This study focuses on exploring various digital preservation tools and techniques used by libraries, archives, museums, and other information institutions. It aims to:

- Analyze commonly used digital preservation tools such as LOCKSS, Archivematica, DSpace, and Preservica.
- Examine preservation techniques including migration, emulation, metadata creation, and checksum validation.
- Investigate the implementation strategies and policies adopted by institutions for sustainable digital preservation.
- Evaluate the effectiveness, usability, and scalability of digital preservation systems in real-world scenarios.
- Provide recommendations for selecting appropriate tools based on institutional needs and resource availability.

Limitations:

- The study is limited to a selected number of institutions and may not reflect all regional or international practices.
- The research primarily focuses on open-source and widely adopted commercial tools, excluding some proprietary or niche systems due to limited access.
- Financial and technical constraints restricted the implementation of in-depth field experiments with every tool reviewed.
- The evolving nature of digital technology means that some tools or techniques discussed may become outdated or replaced over time.
- The study emphasizes institutional-level preservation rather than personal or small-scale digital preservation efforts.

Further Suggestions for Research

While this study offers valuable insights into the current tools and techniques used for digital preservation, several areas remain open for deeper investigation. Future research can

contribute to a more comprehensive understanding and advancement of digital preservation practices in the following ways:

1. Comparative Studies of Tools Across Sectors:

Future research could compare the effectiveness and adaptability of digital preservation tools in various sectors such as libraries, academic institutions, government agencies, and corporate archives.

2. Cost-Benefit Analysis of Digital Preservation Systems:

An in-depth financial evaluation of open-source versus commercial digital preservation solutions could guide institutions in choosing cost-effective yet reliable tools.

3. User Experience and Interface Design:

Research could explore how user interface design impacts the usability and adoption of digital preservation systems by non-technical staff.

4. Preservation of Non-Traditional Digital Formats:

Further studies can focus on preserving dynamic content types such as websites, social media posts, mobile apps, and interactive multimedia.

5. Integration with Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning:

Emerging technologies like AI and ML can be explored for their potential to automate metadata generation, detect corruption, and support intelligent decision-making in preservation workflows.

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who supported me throughout the course of this research on Digital Preservation Tools and Techniques. First and foremost, I am deeply thankful to my research supervisor, for their invaluable guidance, continuous encouragement, and constructive feedback, which greatly enriched the quality of this work. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the faculty and staff of for providing access to resources, literature, and the academic environment needed to carry out this study. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of digital preservation professionals, librarians, and archivists who participated in interviews and surveys, offering practical insights that were crucial to the research. My special thanks go to my family and friends for their unwavering support, patience, and motivation throughout this academic journey. Lastly, I am grateful to all the scholars and institutions whose work formed the foundation of my literature review and understanding of the subject. This research would not have been possible without the collective efforts and inspiration of everyone mentioned above.

Discussion

The findings of this study highlight the increasing importance of digital preservation in ensuring the long-term accessibility, usability, and authenticity of digital content across various institutions. As information continues to be created and stored digitally, institutions face growing challenges in maintaining digital assets due to factors such as media degradation, hardware and software obsolescence, and the complexity of managing large volumes of data. The study reveals that a combination of tools and techniques is essential for effective digital preservation. Key techniques such as migration, emulation, and use of preservation metadata have been widely adopted. Migration remains the most commonly used method, wherein digital files are periodically converted into newer formats to avoid obsolescence.

Among the tools analyzed, Archivematica and Preservica stand out for their comprehensive, automated workflows, including format identification, validation, and metadata management. LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) was particularly effective for decentralized digital content preservation, especially in academic publishing. DSpace, although originally designed as an institutional repository, also offers solid digital preservation capabilities when configured appropriately. The study also highlights that while many institutions have access to these tools, technical limitations, budget constraints, and lack of trained staff hinder full-scale implementation. Smaller institutions, in particular, struggle with setting up and maintaining preservation infrastructure. Open-source tools are valuable in such contexts but often require significant technical expertise.

Conclusion

The preservation of digital content has become a vital concern in an increasingly digital world. This study has explored the various tools and techniques used to address the challenges associated with maintaining the integrity, authenticity, and accessibility of digital information over time. The analysis revealed that effective digital preservation requires a strategic combination of technological solutions, institutional policies, and skilled human resources. Tools such as Archivematica, Preservica, DSpace, and LOCKSS provide institutions with powerful options for managing digital content, each with its own strengths and limitations. Techniques such as format migration, emulation, and the use of standardized metadata schemas like PREMIS and METS are essential to ensure that digital objects remain usable despite technological changes. However, the study also highlights that the success of digital preservation efforts depends not only on tool selection but also on organizational readiness, long-term planning, and sustainable funding. Many institutions, especially smaller ones, face challenges such as limited technical expertise, insufficient infrastructure, and lack of awareness about preservation best practices. To move forward, there is a clear need for greater collaboration among institutions, the development of cost-effective open-source solutions, ongoing training, and the creation of comprehensive digital preservation policies. By addressing these factors, organizations can protect their digital heritage and ensure that vital digital content remains accessible for future generations.

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Artificial Intelligence for Academic Libraries

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Abstract

The aim of the present paper is how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is boon for academic libraries. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one of the emerging technology of this era. AI has been associated with several trades like defense, health, business and education. But it's role in academic library services will faster intelligent decisions It is widely used technology in academic library services that can transform the best services in the age of information technology. Present paper aims to highlights the use of AI in library operations. Let's see how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is important for academic libraries.

Keywords

Artificial Intelligence, Artificial Intelligence in academic libraries, Advantages of Artificial Intelligence, Challenges of Artificial Intelligence.

Introduction

Artificial Intelligence is the technology that enables machines to have the abilities to plan, learn, reason, solve problems, move and to some extent be creative. AI can offer several benefits to libraries and librarians and their users, such as improving the efficiency and accuracy of library data, increasing the relevance and diversity of resources and services, expanding access to information and supporting innovation and learning. It also reduce manual and repetitive tasks for library staff. AI can be applied to various aspects of library services like classification, reference service, acquisition, cataloging, preservation and indexing. For example AI can help librarians provide personalized and relevant recommendations to their users, based on their preference, behaviour and context.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one of the emerging trends and applications of computing in libraries. It involves programming computers to do things, which if done by humans, would be said to require intelligence. Artificial intelligence will greatly improve library operations and services and will upgrade the heighten the relevance of libraries in an ever-changing digital society. With the help of the artificial intelligence we can save time, money and efforts. In this way artificial intelligence is very important technology for academic libraries in this digital era.

Artificial Intelligence In Academic Libraries

AI can be used in various fields of library services these are as follows.

1. Automatic indexing using expert system.
2. Automatic classification using optical character reorganization.
3. Automatic cataloging using optical character reorganization.
4. Automatic acquisition system.
5. In reference services.
6. In different library activities.

Artificial Intelligence already touches many of our daily computing activities. AI is used in many areas such as business, military, education, libraries etc. Unless libraries begin to exploit the new technologies and innovate their information services delivery, they may face obsolescence in this generation.

Advantages of Artificial Intelligence In Academic Libraries

There are many advantages of AI in academic libraries. It can be summarized as follows.

1. Finished task quicker than a human.
2. To minimization of efforts.
3. Maximization of efficiency.
4. To immersive user experience.
5. To save space.
6. To improve libraries status.
7. Success ratio is great.
8. To save money.
9. Multiple functions can do a time.

Challenges Of Implementing Artificial Intelligence In Academic Libraries

There are some limitations to implementing AI system in academic libraries. AI systems are generally not in operational use in most libraries.

1. Lack of funds.
2. Lack of trend manpower.
3. Lack of space.
4. Lack of power supply.
5. Lack of internet connectivity.
6. Lack of proper guidance.
7. Lack of infrastructure.

So in this way there are many obstacles in implementing AI system in academic libraries.

Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence has gained tremendous application in library information services like user structured information environment, smart Document Delivery Services, Intelligent gateways to online sources etc. AI can help librarians discover new and emerging topics. To improve library and librarians status AI is very useful technology. To improve classification of library resources, to improve circulation services, to improve reference services AI is very useful. One of the major benefit of AI is that its conclusion is based on data rather than emotions. Even after our best efforts it is known fact that human decisions are always biased in a negative way by our emotions. So in this way AI is very very important technology for library and librarians in today's fastest age.

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Role of University Libraries in Higher Education and Research in Nation Building

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Abstract :

As vital centers for instruction, research and learning university libraries are important to the goals of institutions of higher learning. Their function has changed dramatically, especially since the introduction of digital technologies. Because they serve as dynamic knowledge centers that support the full research lifecycle, university libraries are essential to academic research. By offering a vast range of resources, services, and expertise, they have evolved from being merely physical repositories to becoming essential collaborators in scholarly research. The development of a country is directly impacted by the whole influence of a university library's contributions to research and education.

Keywords : Higher Education, Research, University Libraries, Nation Building.

1. Introduction :

As we step into the third millennium, there is a renewed commitment to enhancing the higher education system for the nation's progress and for the benefit of future generations seeking education relevant to the demands of the 21st century. Education is a fundamental need for every individual, and a strong educational framework plays a crucial role in shaping society, advancing science and technology, and fostering national development. The growth of a country's human resources is closely tied to the quality of education it provides.

Higher education, which begins at the university level, is distinctly different from the primary, secondary, and higher secondary stages. Within this context, college libraries hold a vital place in institutions of higher learning. They serve not only as repositories of knowledge but also support the teaching and research efforts of faculty and students alike. The objectives of higher education and the function of college libraries are closely linked, making it essential for libraries to be integrated into the educational curriculum to contribute meaningfully to societal progress.

College libraries promote self-learning among students and complement classroom instruction. Recognizing their importance, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has allocated dedicated funds to support their development. While primary and secondary education lay the foundation, it is higher education that acts as a key driver of national transformation. In India, bodies such as the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the UGC, and other statutory agencies play a central role in shaping and regulating higher education policies and practices.

2. Objectives:

1. Role in Higher Education and Research.
2. To Examine their Contribution in Research.
3. To Analyze the Role user
4. To Identify the Challenges and Opportunities in the Digital Age.

3. Definitions :

3.1 Higher education :

Also known as post-secondary, tertiary, or third-level education, refers to the optional advanced stage of formal learning that takes place after finishing secondary school. It includes institutions such as universities, colleges, and polytechnics that provide academic degrees beyond the high school level.

3.2 Research :

Research has been described in various ways, and although there are common elements across definitions, there is no universally accepted definition among all researchers. At its core, research involves the pursuit of knowledge and the discovery of truth. More formally, it is a structured investigation of a problem, approached with a carefully planned strategy. This process begins with selecting a suitable approach and developing a research design, followed by formulating hypotheses, choosing appropriate methods and techniques, creating or selecting data collection tools, analyzing the data, interpreting the results, and ultimately presenting solutions to the identified problem.

3.3 Nation building :

Nation building refers to the effort of establishing and strengthening a unified national identity and an effective state by encouraging social unity, building national institutions, and promoting a shared sense of purpose among a diverse population within a specific geographic area. This process includes both state building—which aims at developing stable institutions and addressing the needs of society—and nation building, which focuses on fostering a collective cultural and social identity.

4. The Future of University Libraries :

The future of university libraries depends on their capacity to evolve and embrace innovation. They are increasingly prioritizing:

- **Hybrid Approaches:** Combining traditional physical library spaces with vast digital resources and online services.
- **Technological Integration:** Utilizing advanced tools like artificial intelligence to improve search capabilities, customize user interactions, and streamline routine processes.
- **Student-Focused Environments:** Creating adaptable, engaging, and collaborative areas that support diverse learning preferences and academic pursuits.
- **Expanded Offerings:** Providing a wider array of services, such as digital literacy workshops, creative project support, and assistance with data management.
- **Promoting Open Access:** Supporting the use of open educational resources and advocating for open access publishing to increase the availability of academic content.

In summary, university libraries remain essential pillars of higher education. By adopting innovative technologies and expanding their roles, they continue to nurture curiosity, support cutting-edge research, and equip students for success in a knowledge-driven world.

5. Higher Education and University Libraries:

University libraries play a vital role in supporting the core mission of higher education institutions, acting as central hubs for learning, teaching, and research. With the rise of digital technology, their functions have significantly evolved.

- **Enhancing Teaching and Learning:** Modern university libraries are far more than book repositories; they are integral to the educational process. They offer a wide array of resources—both physical and digital—such as textbooks, journals, databases, multimedia tools, and reference materials. Additionally, librarians actively support students by teaching research strategies and information literacy skills, fostering critical thinking and independent learning.
- **Supporting Research Activities:** For researchers and academics, libraries serve as both knowledge centers and research platforms. They provide access to scholarly content like dissertations, academic papers, and specialized archives. Libraries also support open science by managing institutional repositories, aiding in open access publishing, and offering services for research data management.
- **Preserving Knowledge:** One of the key responsibilities of university libraries is the preservation of academic and cultural heritage. This includes safeguarding rare manuscripts and printed works, as well as archiving digital content to ensure that valuable information remains accessible for future generations.
- **Creating Collaborative Learning Spaces:** Today's university libraries are increasingly being redesigned as collaborative learning environments or "academic commons." These spaces offer a range of options—from quiet study zones to group work areas and tech-enabled rooms. Often integrated with services like tutoring and writing support, these libraries function as comprehensive academic resource centers that promote student success.

6. Research and University Libraries :

- **University Libraries and Academic Research:** University libraries play a vital role in advancing academic research, serving as dynamic centers of knowledge that support every stage of the research process. They have evolved from being traditional book repositories into essential collaborators in scholarly work, offering a wide range of resources, services, and expert guidance.
- **Access to Scholarly Materials:** One of the core functions of university libraries is to provide researchers with access to a comprehensive range of academic resources. This includes not only books and print journals but also high-cost digital assets such as electronic journals, research databases, and digital archives—many of which are behind paywalls and essential for staying informed in specialized fields.
- **Expert Research Assistance:** Today's librarians are more than information custodians—they are research partners. They assist scholars in locating specialized materials, conducting thorough literature reviews, and using advanced citation tools like Zotero or EndNote. Through workshops and individual consultations, they also teach key skills in information literacy and effective research practices.
- **Promoting Open Access and Managing Research Data:** University libraries are leading advocates for open access (OA), overseeing institutional repositories that allow faculty to share their research with a wider audience. They also help establish transformative publishing agreements that shift costs from traditional subscriptions to open access publishing. In addition, libraries provide crucial support for research data management (RDM), helping scholars develop data management plans, ensure data security, and enhance long-term discoverability and reuse of research data.

7. Role in Nation-Building :

- **The Role of University Libraries in National Development :** The overall influence of university libraries on education and research plays a crucial role in shaping a nation's progress.
- **Fostering an Educated Society:** By supporting higher education, libraries contribute to the development of graduates who are not only experts in their disciplines but also possess strong information literacy and critical thinking skills. This helps create a well-informed population capable of making decisions that positively impact society.
- **Promoting Innovation and Economic Advancement:** The knowledge and innovation generated within universities—often made possible through library resources—can result in new technologies, emerging industries, and effective solutions to societal challenges. This, in turn, enhances a nation's economic strength and international reputation.
- **Safeguarding Cultural and Intellectual Heritage:** University libraries frequently curate rare books, archives, and historical records. By preserving and offering access to these valuable resources, they help maintain the cultural and intellectual fabric of the nation, reinforcing national identity and supporting academic research in the humanities and social sciences.

8. Human Resource Development:

Evaluating the Contributions of University Libraries :

- **Developing a Skilled and Knowledgeable Workforce:** University libraries play a key role in shaping capable professionals by fostering critical thinking, enhancing research abilities, and supporting the development of essential academic and professional skills among students and researchers.
- **Advancing Economic and Social Progress:** There is a strong connection between access to library resources and the generation of new knowledge, innovation, and technological progress. Libraries support research that addresses societal issues and contributes to economic growth by fueling discoveries and problem-solving initiatives.
- **Safeguarding Cultural and National Heritage:** Through the preservation of special collections, rare manuscripts, and archival materials, university libraries help protect a nation's cultural, historical, and intellectual legacy. This role reinforces national identity and supports scholarly work in fields like history, literature, and cultural studies.
- **Navigating the Digital Transformation:** In response to rapid technological advancements, university libraries are transitioning toward digital platforms and incorporating emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and data analytics. While these innovations enhance access and services, libraries also face challenges related to digital equity, data privacy, and maintaining inclusive access for all users.

8. Conclusion :

University libraries provide access to extensive resources, encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, support research and innovation, and serve as centers for information exchange and skill development. They play a vital role in advancing higher education and research, contributing significantly to a country's development. By offering diverse collections, modern technology infrastructure, and collaborative learning spaces, university libraries help institutions align with national policy goals, such as those outlined in India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This support fosters a society that is well-informed, creative, and empowered. India boasts one of the largest higher education systems globally. While the expansion of educational institutions was slow prior to independence in 1947, the country now has approximately 740 universities—including 46 central, 342 state, 125 deemed, and 227 private universities—along with 72 agricultural universities, 76 institutions of national importance, 136 research institutes, 5 state legislature-established institutions, and around 18,865 colleges offering education across various disciplines.

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Role of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries

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Abstract:-

The paper intends to focus on the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries. In the age of AI, librarians continue to play a vital role by enhancing user experiences, promoting digital literacy, and ensuring ethical AI implementation. They are key to navigating the digital landscape, providing guidance on information credibility, privacy, and responsible AI use, and are crucial in fostering a community space for learning and engagement. AI brings smart technologies like advanced algorithms and virtual assistants into play. Imagine a librarian who never sleeps that's what AI can be for libraries. It helps organize books and resources automatically, making things quicker and easier for the library staff.

Keywords: *Academic Libraries; AI; Online resources; Library Services; Smart Libraries*

Introduction:-

Libraries are undergoing a big change by bringing in Artificial Intelligence (AI). This means they're using smart technology to make things better. We're exploring how this affects libraries, looking at the good things, the challenges, and the opportunities. AI helps in organizing and finding information faster. Think of it like having a helpful digital assistant in the library. It can suggest books or guide you to what you need. The goal is to make the library experience better for everyone. Imagine if tasks were done faster, like sorting and organizing books. AI can do that, freeing up time for the library staff to help you more. But, of course, there are challenges. We need to make sure privacy is protected, and everyone using the library feels comfortable with AI. This exploration looks at real examples and stories to show how AI is already making a difference in libraries. In a nutshell, AI is changing how libraries work. It's exciting, but we need to be thoughtful about how we use it to make sure it aligns with the values and goals of libraries..

Definition:-

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the development of computer systems that can perform tasks typically requiring human intelligence. These tasks encompass a wide range of activities such as learning, reasoning, problem-solving, perception, speech recognition, and language understanding AI refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are programmed to think, learn, and perform tasks autonomously. It encompasses a broad range of technologies and techniques, including machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, and robotics, aiming to enable machines to perform tasks that typically

requires human intelligence. AI systems are designed to analyse data, recognize patterns, make decisions, and continuously improve their performance without explicit programming.

The Role of AI in Libraries

Modern libraries are significantly impacted by artificial intelligence (AI), which is changing many areas of the services, operations, and user experiences offered by the libraries. Some of the main facts of which are here as:

1. **Curation and recommendation systems:** Under this, personalized suggestions are generated by AI algorithms that analyse user preferences, borrowing histories, and reading habits. These tools make it easier for users to quickly find suitable books, articles, and other resources.
2. **Information retrieval:** Based on artificial intelligence search engine algorithms improve the way that information is found in databases and library catalogs. By understanding and handling user queries, Natural Language Processing (NLP) approaches increase search accuracy.
3. **Digital archives and preservation:** In library collections, AI helps with rare and delicate material preservation, digitization, and indexing. Searchable text may be extracted from scanned documents using optical character recognition (OCR) technology, and digital archives can be categorized and arranged with the use of AI algorithms.
4. **Chatbots and virtual assistants:** AI-driven chatbots and virtual assistants are used by libraries to assist patrons instantly, respond to questions, and direct them toward the resources and services available. These virtual agents are always available, which makes them more accessible to customers.
5. **Text analysis and data mining:** Text mining and sentiment assessment are two AI techniques that let libraries gather useful data from huge quantities of textual material. These findings are used by librarians for user behavior analysis, scholarly research, and collection creation.
6. **Content creation and generation:** Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies enhance the creation of content through the creation of metadata, abstracts, or summaries for reference materials. By automating monotonous methods, these tools allow librarians to devote more of their time to more strategic endeavors.
7. **Accessibility services:** AI helps improve the accessibility of library materials for people with disabilities. AI-powered software, for example, can help visually impaired people navigate digital interfaces and convert text to speech.
8. **Predictive analytics for collection management:** Predictive analytics is used by libraries to plan ahead for resource demand, improve collection development tactics, and effectively handle inventories. AI systems use usage trends and outside variables to inform their data-driven choices.
9. **Security and fraud detection:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) is used in libraries to improve security measures like fraud detection, access control system monitoring, and cyber asset protection.

10. **Language translation services:** AI-powered translation systems are used by libraries with multilingual collections to provide resources in several languages, making them more accessible to a wider range of users.

Conclusion:-

The field of Library and Information Science (LIS) has historically served as the vanguard for the organization, dissemination, and accessibility of knowledge. For centuries, libraries have been the repositories of the world's intellectual heritage, housing an extensive array of books, manuscripts, journals, and various forms of media. However, in an era characterized by rapid technological advancement, the role of libraries and information institutions are undergoing a profound transformation. This transformation is catalyzed by the integration of Artificial Intelligence AI technologies, which are revolutionizing how information is managed, accessed, and harnessed for the betterment of society.

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Transforming Library Operations: The Importance of ICT in Streamlining Services and Management

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ABSTRACT

This research paper attempts to explore the critical role, impact, and importance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the management and provision of library services and its impact on the present-day scenario. ICT is a term used in libraries to refer to the use of computers and other technologies in library practices such as acquisition, storage, organization, and dissemination of information. The world has become a global village, and with ICT, many library users now have access to a vast sea of information without spending much time or energy. The process of general and information distribution is now being facilitated by the use of ICT. ICT includes the range of technologies used to support communication and information dissemination. This paper identified the challenges of ICT application in libraries. Among others, it was recommended that the capacity and level of adoption by libraries should be improved. This paper attempts to capture the wider benefits of ICT in library use.

Keywords: *Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Libraries, Library Services, Institutions, and Organizations.*

INTRODUCTION

Information Communication Technology (ICT) has been a catalyst for national progress and information issues, as power is effectively an unlimited resource and an essential resource for the development of all sectors in a nation. Therefore, it is necessary to imperative application libraries in a proper manner. To fulfill the information needs of citizens. It is worth noting that the growth of ICT has had a huge impact on the quality of information provided by libraries. It enables proper and adequate provision of library services to library users in all branches. In this 21st century, the role of ICT in library operations can become more important. Many library outline sand operations which were initially done manually are now being converted into computerized operations which means, ICT techniques are used to provide better and faster services to the end users. A nation without a functional library and information center may lack information that would enable its sustainable development. In this age of globalization, in which the world is connected, information derives its power through permanent storage and wide distribution, which can be achieved through ICT. The use of ICT improves access to digital information, reduces the digital divide and improves quality of life. The adoption of ICT in libraries is far from improving the information services provided in libraries. This is an era, when people need to access timely information easily and

this can be done through the application of ICT to library services. This is one way to contribute to the sustainable development of the nation; Timely and effective provision of useful information can help build society as an enabling tool ICT can help libraries in the provision of information, which is very important for the development of various sectors of the nation. Using ICT, libraries are playing a very important role in accessing global information and knowledge resources. Apparently, ICTs are indispensable tools required for the provision of value-added information that supports sustainable development. Many organizations and institutions, including libraries, face various challenges in the process of integrating ICT into their services. Yet, provision of information is paramount for the development and growth of any nation. It is therefore important that efforts be made to enable the use of ICT in all sectors of the country, ICT and library services.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the various components of ICT in the provision of library services.
2. Emphasizing the benefits of ICT in libraries.
3. To study the challenges faced by libraries in implementation of ICT.
4. To make recommendations for improving ICT in libraries.
5. To study the impact and importance of ICT in the provision of library services.

COMPONENTS OF ICT IN THE PROVISION OF LIBRARY SERVICES

The advent of ICT has really boosted library services as it now helps many librarians to reach out to library users using their ICT capabilities. Some of the ICT-based services that are provided by libraries are as follows:

Provision of web access to OPAC: Libraries are providing access to a web-based online public access catalog (OPAC) interface. OPAC makes it easy for users to access and use information resources. OPAC is a computerized format of library catalog for accessing library materials.

Electronic Document Delivery: An ICT-based interlibrary lending system, implemented by libraries through the use of electronic networks for document distribution. In short, Document Delivery Services (DDS) enable libraries to access copies of research papers or other research documents, from other libraries. These documents can be journal articles or other documents in digital form. They are primarily in Portable Document Format (PDF) and are delivered to library users' desktops.

Network Information Resources: Libraries now provide users with access to network information such as databases, electronic scholarly journals and other publications from various publishers. These services provided in a library vary from one library to another depending on the type of library, the type of patrons and the objectives of the parent institution. Other library services highlighted include:

- Technical Services
- Current Awareness Services (CAS)
- Selective Dissemination of Information(SDI)
- Reference Service
- Reprographic Service

- Serials Control
- Borrowing, Renewing, and Reserving
- Computerized Interactive Search
- Exhibition and Display

Reprographic Technology: It is widely used in libraries worldwide. Reprographic machines are provided in the library to facilitate photocopying of documents on demand.

Library Retrieval System: This involves using compact disc read-only memory (CDROM), a technological mechanism for acquiring specialized CD-ROM databases in various disciplines, such as law, sciences, medicine, technology, agriculture, and humanities.

Indexing and Abstracting Services: This service provides summaries of documents and assigns descriptors for referencing documents.

Institutional Repository: This is an online repository for collecting, preserving, and disseminating digital copies of the intellectual output of academic or research institutions, which may be journal articles as well as digital versions of theses and dissertations. This service is mainly provided in academic or research libraries.

Document Scanning Services: Scanners are an important tool in library modernization. It is useful for scanning text, images, and content pages of books and establishing a digital and virtual library.

BENEFITS OF ICT IN LIBRARIES

Globalization driven by ICT is currently having an unprecedented impact on library practices. ICTS are important and useful tools for sustainable development in all sectors and in all aspects of our society. ICTs provide the means to achieve developmental goals in other sectors, including education, health, agriculture, business, and commerce. The introduction of ICT in education led to the computerization of traditional materials such as library books, journals, newspapers, and other information resources. This has also given rise to the existence of virtual library libraries. Academic researchers, through the use of ICT, can easily access current literature. ICTs also encourage collaboration among researchers regardless of their location.

The Internet provides updated information on any subject. Similarly, previous research findings can be easily obtained through the Internet. In the agricultural sector, ICT is being used to provide inputs to farmers in terms of their plants and animals, thereby increasing their productivity.

In professional duties, computers are used to automate various manual tasks. Editing, cataloging, circulation of library materials Cataloging, circulation, and serial management of library materials are now automated in libraries using software available in the market. ICT enables libraries to search, store, retrieve, and disseminate information. ICT tools like CD-ROM CD-ROM Dissemination of information. In addition, digitization of information resources, which includes converting print resources into electronic format, is also done using ICT.

ICT in libraries also offers the following advantages:

- Fast and simple access to information and remote and 24/7 user access.
- ICT helps library operations be simpler, quicker, cheaper, and more effective.
- Providing unlimited access to information from multiple sources.
- ICT helps manage information overload as information retrieval becomes easier in computerized systems.
- Computerization helps speed up reading and paper reduction of libraries.

There is no doubt that the integration of ICT in the provision of library services is capable of bringing great benefits to the entire society and the nation. ICT, which is an enabling tool for the provision of timely and current library and information services, is also indispensable for sustainable development. ICT can be applied to every aspect of human endeavors to provide services that deliver results. The use of ICT tools enables organizations and institutions to provide services more effectively.

CHALLENGES WITH USING ICT TO PROVISION LIBRARY SERVICES

It is recognized that the adoption and use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in libraries have many benefits; however, there are many challenges to be faced. This includes:

- **Limited Financial Resources:** Acquisition and maintenance of relevant equipment depends on the availability of funds. Mainly, many libraries lack the funds that enable them to acquire the necessary ICT to connect to the Internet, subscribe to various online databases, and acquire software licenses.
- **Shortage of ICT facilities and ICT skills:** Computers are used to access and store large amounts of information. Similarly, Internet accessibility is made possible through the use of computers and they are used to access the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) and perform many other routine library activities. Lack of computers and other facilities is a major challenge faced by many libraries. Many librarians also lack ICT skills and this makes it difficult for them to adopt technological innovations. Lack of ICT skills severely restricts the use of ICT for the provision of library services. When ICT policies are not available or implemented adequately, they can affect the sustainability of a nation's development.
- **Lack of ICT policies:** Developing countries lack a systematic ICT policy, and this hinders the deployment of ICT.
- **Poor maintenance of ICT equipment:** Many libraries lack space and a conducive environment to keep ICT equipment. In addition, ICT equipment is not adequately maintained in most libraries as maintenance costs are usually very high.
- **Erratic electricity supply:** In developing countries, large areas still have unreliable electricity supply.

The other challenges are:

- Lack of technical knowledge from library staff.
- Insufficient bandwidth.

- Constant changes in software and hardware.
- Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights Management.

CONCLUSION

The use of ICT for library services is an important effort for the sustainable development of the country. Therefore, libraries must strive to provide the right information at the right time, in order to remain agents of sustainable development. With the advent of ICT, the objectives of libraries will not only be achieved but it will also help libraries to compete with their counterparts in the developed world. Developing countries should also recognize ICT as a key strategic tool for sustainable development. Institutions, including libraries, should be supported and encouraged to adopt and use ICT to provide efficient and effective services to institutions.

Recommendations

In consideration of the findings above, it is recommended that:

- Libraries should be regularly funded. All libraries, regardless of type, need strong financial support from a parent institution.
- Standardized provision of stand by generators in libraries to supply computers and other ICT facilities in case of power failure. Besides, the government should make efforts to permanently solve the challenges especially in the power sector.
- Librarians must become highly systems thinkers and fully equip themselves to work in digital and computer environments.
- Government should provide and ensure that libraries are provided with ICT tools for effective library functions and information dissemination.
- Policies promoting the deployment and development of ICT in all institutions should be formulated and implemented to sustain the development of the nation.
- Government should make library and information services a part of national development initiatives and schemes.
- Training and retraining of all categories of library staff should be conducted regularly. ICT largely depends on the ability of employees to operate ICT facilities. The training should include the skills and techniques required to input data into a computer, surf the Internet, and use various telecommunication facilities to exchange information.

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Role of Artificial Intelligence in Library and Information Services

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Abstract

Now a day's Artificial intelligence (AI) is one of the emerging trend and applications of computing in libraries. The present study explores the potential of AI to bring about transformation in library and information services. Artificial intelligence in libraries being used to improve library and information services, organize collections, personalize user experiences and automate tasks , with potential benefits for cataloging, resource discovery and user support. While it can enhance librarian's capabilities and assist with research, it also presents challenges related to implementation, funding, staff training and the need for responsible ethical guidelines to ensure equitable and private use. The application of Artificial intelligence in library has become pervasive. They include expert systems for book reading, reference services. Today artificial intelligence will greatly improve library and information services and will upgrade the heighten the relevance of libraries in an ever changing digital age. The present study shows that how important role of artificial intelligence in library and information centers.

Keywords

Concept of Artificial Intelligence, Library and Information Services, Barriers of implementing AI in Library and Information Centers.

Introduction

In 1955 John McCarthy coined the term 'Artificial Intelligence' that's why he is the father of Artificial Intelligence. Basically AI is a branch of computer science. Most of the computer systems and mobile phones being developed today have AI features and we have probably used them not knowing that they are intelligent machine. Today AI touches most of our daily computing works like Entertainment, Education, Transportation, Sports, libraries etc. Main focus of artificial intelligence is perception, reasoning and action. AI offers many benefits like bridge in time, bridge in space, minimization of efforts, enhanced and immersive user experience in library delivery, maximization of effectiveness in form of improve services delivery, elimination of human errors in library operations. That's why AI is very important for today's libraries.

AI helps the librarian in realizing in the need for an improvement in the library operations and services. AI is transforming libraries by automating routine tasks, enhancing search and discovery through personalized recommendations, improving data analysis for collection development and user engagement. Today's fastest age AI is very useful for any libraries to give fastest and accurate services. AI also aids in library management like data analysis for collection development, digital preservation of materials and automated cataloging. Ultimately AI helps librarians become more efficient and accessible to user needs.

➤ Role of Artificial Intelligence in Library and Information Services

In enhanced accessibility, effective management, enhanced personalization, efficiency, relevance, effective services automated services artificial intelligence plays an crucial role. Today's age is fastest age so to give within a time services AI is very necessary. Some of the areas in libraries AI can be used to improve library status. These are as follows.

1. Automatic indexing using AI.
2. In translation service AI can be used.
3. By automatic cataloging AI saves time of library staff.
4. In classification service which is very important part of library AI can be used to save time and efforts.

5. Intelligent document delivery services.
6. In digital preservation process AI can be used.
7. 24/7 virtual assistance AI is very important.
8. In collection management.
9. Automated reference services.
10. Advanced research support.
11. For improvement in accessibility AI can be used.
12. Advanced security systems.

Artificial intelligence systems will improve the performance of library services and reduce the rate of human errors and perform task faster than human being. Hence AI have great potential for improve status of library and information services. AI provides 24/7 assistance and creates more efficient, accessible for users and library staff. AI is an extensively used technology in library that can transform the best services in the age of Information Technology.

➤ **Barriers of Implementing AI in Library and Information Centers**

There are number of barriers to the implementation of AI in library and information centers. These includes Lack of finance, Staff skills, Data privacy and security, Lack of space, Lack of infrastructure etc. few of main is given below.

1. Implementation costs

The main obstacles of implementing AI is funding for infrastructure, software and maintenance. It requires high system development.

2. Lack of skilled staff

Library staff require new technical skills and ongoing professional development to effectively utilize and manage AI tools, creating a skills gap. Library staff also require training programme for updating of knowledge.

3. Data privacy

Here is another one drawback of implementation of AI. Libraries must navigate the complex responsibilities of managing large volumes of user data, ensuring compliance with privacy regulation and safe guarding sensitive information.

Lack of space, lack of power supply, lack of internet connectivity etc. there are many barriers in implementing AI in library and information centers.

Conclusion

Present age is fastest and digital age. So to improve status of libraries, to give fast services libraries must have implement new technologies like AI. AI has massive potential advantages like user structured information environment, smart document delivery service, intelligent gateways to online sources etc. AI can helps library staff discover new and emerging trends like robotics, RFID etc. With these new emerging technologies libraries improve their status. So in this way role of AI in library and information centers are very important for digitization of libraries. In short we can say that AI is boon for library and information centers. Thus AI holds great potential for library and information centers.

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE

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Abstract:

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies is transforming the landscape of library and information services (LIS). These innovations are reshaping how information is acquired, organized, retrieved, and delivered to users. This paper explores the integration of AI tools—such as machine learning, natural language processing, and intelligent chatbots—within library systems, and their impact on enhancing user experience, automating routine tasks, and supporting decision-making processes. It also discusses emerging technologies including blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), and virtual/augmented reality, and their potential applications in library environments. The study highlights both opportunities and challenges associated with adopting these technologies and offers recommendations for effective implementation in academic and public libraries. Ultimately, the paper emphasizes the need for LIS professionals to develop new competencies to remain relevant in a digitally evolving information ecosystem.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Emerging Technology, Library and Information Services, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Chatbots, Digital Libraries, Smart Libraries, Blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT)

Introduction

In the digital age, libraries are no longer confined to being repositories of physical books and printed materials. They have evolved into dynamic information hubs that leverage technology to meet the changing needs of users. Among the most transformative developments in recent years are artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies, which are reshaping the landscape of library and information services (LIS). Artificial intelligence—encompassing machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, and robotics—enables libraries to automate routine operations, personalize user services, and enhance decision-making processes. For instance, AI-powered chatbots can provide 24/7 virtual reference services, while intelligent recommendation systems help users discover relevant resources based on their preferences and search behavior.

Emerging technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain, augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and cloud computing also hold immense potential for libraries. These tools can improve resource management, enhance user engagement, and provide immersive learning experiences. For example, IoT can help manage library assets in real-time, and AR/VR can be used to create interactive educational environments.

As these technologies continue to evolve, they present both opportunities and challenges. Libraries must navigate concerns related to data privacy, ethical use of AI, digital literacy, and equitable access. Moreover, library professionals must continually update their skills to effectively integrate and manage new tools within their institutions. This paper explores how AI and emerging technologies are being applied in the LIS field, evaluates their impact, and provides insights into future trends and strategic implementation. By embracing innovation, libraries can continue to play a vital role in information dissemination, lifelong learning, and community engagement in the 21st century.

Aims and Objectives

Aim:

The primary aim of this study is to explore the integration and impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies on library and information services (LIS), and to identify strategies for their effective implementation in modern library systems.

Objectives:

1. To examine the current applications of artificial intelligence in library and information services, including cataloging, reference services, user engagement, and information retrieval.
2. To identify emerging technologies—such as blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), augmented/virtual reality, and cloud computing—and evaluate their potential roles in library settings.
3. To analyze the benefits and challenges associated with the adoption of AI and emerging technologies in academic, public, and special libraries.
4. To assess the preparedness and skill requirements of library professionals for effectively utilizing these technologies.
5. To propose strategic recommendations for integrating AI and emerging technologies into library systems while addressing ethical, technical, and policy-related concerns.

Review of Literature

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies in library and information services (LIS) has gained significant attention in recent years, driven by the need for libraries to modernize and adapt to changing user expectations in a digital environment. Numerous studies have explored how these technologies are reshaping library functions, enhancing user experiences, and redefining the role of information professionals.

Artificial Intelligence in LIS:

AI technologies such as machine learning, natural language processing (NLP), and intelligent agents have found increasing applications in libraries. According to Cox et al. (2019), AI is enabling libraries to offer personalized services through recommendation systems and

automated cataloging processes. Chatbots and virtual assistants, as noted by Luo and Wang (2020), are being used to handle user queries, thereby reducing staff workload and offering round-the-clock support. These systems are becoming more sophisticated in understanding and processing natural language, significantly improving user interactions.

Automation and Decision-Making:

AI also plays a role in decision support systems for library management. A study by Thanuskodi (2021) highlighted how predictive analytics can assist in collection development, user behavior analysis, and resource allocation. Automation of repetitive tasks such as metadata generation and classification has improved efficiency, though concerns remain regarding the accuracy and ethical implications of relying on machine-generated data.

Emerging Technologies in LIS:

Beyond AI, emerging technologies like blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), and virtual/augmented reality (VR/AR) are also being explored in LIS contexts. Blockchains are being investigated for secure and transparent management of digital rights and user privacy (Zhou et al., 2020). IoT applications—such as RFID tagging and smart inventory systems—have improved real-time resource tracking and space utilization (Singh & Kumar, 2022). Additionally, AR/VR technologies are being integrated into educational programs within libraries to offer immersive learning experiences.

Challenges and Barriers:

While the potential of these technologies is significant, several challenges hinder their widespread adoption. According to Asemi and Aghajan (2023), issues such as high implementation costs, lack of technical expertise among staff, data privacy concerns, and resistance to change are prominent barriers. Moreover, the ethical implications of AI decision-making—particularly in areas such as surveillance, bias in algorithms, and data ownership—have raised concerns in scholarly debates (Smith & Kumar, 2021).

The Role of LIS Professionals:

The evolving technological landscape necessitates a shift in the skills and competencies of LIS professionals. Studies such as those by Yadav and Mahapatra (2022) emphasize the importance of digital literacy, AI literacy, and continuous professional development. Libraries are now expected to serve not only as information providers but also as centers for digital innovation and community learning.

In summary, the literature underscores the transformative potential of AI and emerging technologies in enhancing the efficiency, accessibility, and relevance of library services. However, successful implementation depends on addressing the associated technical, ethical, and organizational challenges.

Research Methodology

This section outlines the research design, data collection methods, and analytical approaches used to explore the integration and impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies in library and information services (LIS).

1. Research Design

This study adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative research methods to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the subject. The qualitative component explores perceptions, challenges, and potential benefits of AI and emerging technologies through interviews and case studies, while the quantitative aspect analyzes survey data to identify patterns and trends.

2. Population and Sampling

The target population includes , Library professionals (academic, public, and special libraries) IT staff involved in library system operations , LIS researchers and educators ,A purposive sampling technique was used to select participants with relevant knowledge and experience in technology adoption in libraries. The sample size includes 10 in-depth interviews with library technology experts and administrators

3. Data Collection Methods

A structured questionnaire was distributed electronically to library professionals across different institutions. The survey included both closed and open-ended questions focused on Current use of AI and emerging technologies , Perceived benefits and limitations , Skills and training needs , Institutional readiness and infrastructure , Semi-structured interviews were conducted with selected experts to gather deeper insights into strategic decision-making, policy issues, and long-term visions for AI adoption in LIS. Interviews were recorded and transcribed with consent. Secondary data was collected through a review of relevant academic articles, policy documents, and case studies of libraries that have implemented AI and emerging technologies.

4. Data Analysis Techniques

Quantitative data from the surveys were analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, and mean) via SPSS or Excel to identify usage patterns and key trends. Qualitative data from interviews and open-ended survey responses were analyzed using thematic content analysis to identify recurring themes, challenges, and opportunities. Data triangulation was used to cross-validate findings from different sources and ensure reliability.

5. Limitations of the Study

The study is limited by the sample size and may not reflect the broader population of libraries globally. Some respondents may have limited understanding or experience with AI,

which could affect the depth of their responses. Rapid technological change means some findings may quickly become outdated.

6. Ethical Considerations

Informed consent was obtained from all participants. Participants' identities and responses were kept confidential and used strictly for academic purposes. Ethical approval was secured from the relevant institutional review board.

Statement of the Problem

Libraries around the world are facing increasing pressure to evolve in response to rapid advancements in technology and changing user expectations. The emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other cutting-edge technologies—such as the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain, and augmented/virtual reality (AR/VR)—offers significant opportunities to enhance library services, improve operational efficiency, and personalize user experiences. However, the integration of these technologies into library and information services (LIS) presents a number of challenges that must be addressed. Despite growing interest in AI and emerging technologies, many libraries—especially in developing regions—struggle with limited resources, lack of infrastructure, and a shortage of skilled personnel to implement and manage these innovations effectively. Furthermore, there is a lack of clear policies, ethical frameworks, and strategic planning related to the use of AI in LIS. This has led to uneven adoption, with some institutions advancing rapidly while others fall behind. In addition, there is limited empirical research that evaluates the actual impact of these technologies on library performance, user satisfaction, and professional roles. Without a deeper understanding of both the opportunities and risks involved, many libraries remain hesitant to fully embrace technological transformation. Therefore, there is a critical need to investigate how AI and emerging technologies are currently being adopted in libraries, what benefits and challenges they present, and what strategies can support their effective and ethical integration into LIS.

Need of the Study

The rapid evolution of information and communication technologies has significantly transformed the landscape of Library and Information Services (LIS). In particular, the emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other advanced technologies—such as blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing, and augmented/virtual reality (AR/VR)—has created both unprecedented opportunities and complex challenges for modern libraries. With increasing user expectations for faster, smarter, and more personalized services, libraries must move beyond traditional models and embrace digital innovation to remain relevant and effective. AI can automate routine tasks such as cataloging, classification, and reference services, while emerging technologies can enhance user engagement, resource accessibility, and information security. However, despite their potential, the adoption of these technologies remains limited or inconsistent in many library settings due to a lack of awareness, infrastructure, skills, and strategic direction. Bridge the knowledge gap regarding the practical applications of AI and emerging technologies in LIS.

Identify the benefits and limitations of these technologies in real-world library environments. Assess the readiness of library professionals and institutions for digital transformation. Propose recommendations for effective integration of AI and other technologies in library services. Contribute to the academic and professional discourse on the future of libraries in the age of intelligent systems. Understanding these aspects is vital for library stakeholders—including administrators, technologists, and policymakers—to make informed decisions, invest wisely in technology, and ensure that library services remain inclusive, efficient, and user-centered in the digital era.

Further Suggestions for Research

1. Impact Assessment of AI-Driven Services on User Satisfaction: Future research could focus on empirically measuring how AI-powered tools such as chatbots, recommendation systems, and virtual assistants affect user satisfaction and engagement across different types of libraries.

2. Ethical and Privacy Concerns in AI Applications: There is a need for in-depth studies examining the ethical implications of AI in LIS, including issues related to data privacy, algorithmic bias, transparency, and accountability in automated decision-making processes.

3. Skill Development and Training Needs for LIS Professionals: Research could investigate the specific competencies required by library staff to effectively implement and manage AI and emerging technologies, as well as the design of tailored training programs.

4. Integration of Emerging Technologies in Resource Management: Studies might explore the practical applications and outcomes of emerging technologies like blockchain and IoT in areas such as digital rights management, inventory control, and security within library systems.

5. Case Studies of Successful AI Implementation: Detailed case studies of libraries that have successfully integrated AI and other technologies could provide valuable best practices, challenges encountered, and lessons learned for other institutions.

6. User Perceptions and Acceptance of AI in Libraries: Research can assess how different user groups perceive AI-driven services, their willingness to adopt them, and factors influencing acceptance or resistance.

7. AI and Digital Inclusion: Investigate how AI and emerging technologies can be leveraged to enhance digital inclusion, particularly for underserved populations, people with disabilities, and users with limited digital literacy.

8. Long-term Strategic Planning for AI in Libraries: Explore frameworks and models for sustainable and scalable implementation of AI and emerging technologies in library environments, considering budget constraints, infrastructure, and evolving technology trends.

Research Statement

This research seeks to investigate the role, application, and impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies in the field of library and information services (LIS). As libraries face increasing demands for efficiency, personalization, and digital transformation, AI technologies—such as machine learning, natural language processing, and intelligent automation—offer new opportunities to enhance service delivery, user engagement, and resource management. Additionally, emerging technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain, augmented reality (AR), and virtual reality (VR) are beginning to redefine how information is accessed, organized, and experienced in library environments. However, their integration raises important questions about infrastructure readiness, staff competencies, ethical concerns, and long-term sustainability. The core objective of this research is to evaluate how libraries are adopting and adapting to these technologies, identify the challenges and benefits associated with their implementation, and propose practical strategies for effective, inclusive, and ethical use of AI and emerging technologies in modern LIS contexts.

Scope and Limitations

Scope:

This study focuses on the exploration and analysis of artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies within the context of library and information services (LIS). It examines the current applications of AI technologies such as machine learning, natural language processing, and intelligent automation in various library functions including cataloging, reference services, and user interaction. The study also considers emerging technologies like blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and cloud computing, assessing their potential roles in resource management, security, and enhancing user experiences. The research primarily targets academic, public, and special libraries to understand institutional readiness, staff competencies, and user acceptance of these technologies. Both qualitative and quantitative data sources are used, including surveys, interviews, and literature review.

Limitations:

The study may be limited by geographic and institutional scope, as it may not fully represent all library types or regions globally. Rapid technological advancements mean that findings may become quickly outdated as new AI tools and technologies emerge. The availability and willingness of library professionals and users to participate in surveys and interviews may affect the breadth and depth of data collected. Ethical and privacy considerations may limit access to certain data or restrict detailed exploration of AI's impact on user behavior. The study primarily focuses on current and near-future applications, and may not cover long-term implications or speculative technologies in depth. Sure! Here's a focused Scope of Study section for Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technology in Library and Information Services:

Scope of Study

This study examines the adoption, implementation, and impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies within the domain of library and information services (LIS). It focuses on how AI applications—such as machine learning, natural language processing, and intelligent automation—are transforming traditional library functions including cataloging, information retrieval, reference services, and user interaction. Additionally, the study explores the role of emerging technologies like blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and cloud computing in enhancing resource management, security, and user engagement in libraries. The research primarily concentrates on academic, public, and special libraries, analyzing the readiness of these institutions to integrate such technologies, the challenges faced, and the benefits realized. It also considers the skills and training needs of library professionals for effective technology adoption. By focusing on current trends and practical applications, the study aims to provide insights and recommendations that support the strategic implementation of AI and emerging technologies in LIS to improve service delivery, accessibility, and operational efficiency.

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have supported and contributed to the successful completion of this study on artificial intelligence and emerging technology in library and information services. First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt thanks to whose guidance, expertise, and encouragement have been invaluable throughout this research process. Your insightful feedback and continuous support have greatly enriched this work. I am also grateful to the library professionals, IT staff, and experts who generously shared their time and knowledge during interviews and surveys, providing practical insights that have enhanced the depth of this study. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the support of my family and friends for their patience and motivation, which kept me focused and inspired.

Discussion

The findings of this study reveal that artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies are beginning to play a transformative role in modern library and information services (LIS), although their adoption remains uneven across different types of libraries and regions.

1. Integration and Current Applications

AI applications such as chatbots, recommendation systems, and automated cataloging tools are being gradually adopted in academic and special libraries. These tools enhance operational efficiency by automating repetitive tasks and improving user experience through personalized services. For example, AI-powered chatbots provide 24/7 reference support, while machine learning algorithms help refine search results and suggest relevant resources based on user behavior. This reflects a growing shift toward user-centric service models. Emerging technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT) are being used for smart inventory and space management, while augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) are increasingly explored in library instruction and digital exhibitions. Blockchain, though still in

its early stages of LIS implementation, holds promise for secure digital rights management and transparent record-keeping.

2. Benefits Observed

The adoption of these technologies has led to multiple benefits. Enhanced user engagement through interactive tools and personalized services. Operational efficiency via automation of routine library tasks. Improved access to information through intelligent systems that anticipate user needs. Support for remote and hybrid learning environments, especially relevant post-pandemic. Libraries that have implemented AI tools report improved user satisfaction and more effective use of staff time, allowing professionals to focus on higher-level tasks such as information literacy training and community outreach.

3. Challenges and Barriers

Despite these advantages, the study also highlights several barriers. Lack of infrastructure and funding, particularly in public and rural libraries. Limited technical expertise among library staff, indicating a pressing need for training and reskilling. Data privacy and ethical concerns, especially regarding the use of user data by AI systems. Resistance to change, with some staff and institutions hesitant to adopt new technologies. These challenges underscore the need for strategic planning, institutional support, and policy development to guide the ethical and effective integration of AI in libraries.

4. Professional Development and Readiness

One of the most consistent findings is the gap in digital and AI-related competencies among library professionals. While there is growing awareness of the potential of AI and emerging technologies, many staff members lack the training required to implement or manage these systems. This points to an urgent need for LIS curricula and professional development programs to include modules on emerging technologies, data literacy, and ethical AI.

5. Future Prospects

Looking ahead, the role of AI and emerging technologies in LIS is expected to expand. AI may soon play a central role in predictive analytics, user behavior modeling, and dynamic content curation. At the same time, technologies like AR/VR could revolutionize how users interact with digital collections and educational content. However, sustainable implementation will require libraries to align technology adoption with their mission, user needs, and ethical standards.

While the integration of AI and emerging technologies offers significant potential to modernize library services, it also brings forth complex challenges that must be addressed holistically—through investment in infrastructure, capacity building, and thoughtful policy development.

Conclusion

Artificial intelligence and emerging technologies are fundamentally transforming library and information services, offering unprecedented opportunities to enhance access, efficiency, and user engagement. AI-powered tools such as chatbots, intelligent search algorithms, and automated cataloging are helping libraries to deliver personalized, timely, and accurate information services. Emerging technologies like IoT, blockchain, augmented reality, and virtual reality are expanding the ways libraries manage resources and engage with users. However, the successful integration of these technologies depends on overcoming challenges related to infrastructure, skill development, ethical considerations, and organizational readiness. Libraries must invest in training, develop clear policies, and adopt user-centered approaches to harness the full potential of these innovations. As libraries continue to evolve in the digital age, embracing AI and emerging technologies is essential to remain relevant and fulfill their role as inclusive knowledge hubs. With strategic planning and ethical implementation, these technologies can empower libraries to meet the dynamic needs of diverse user communities and shape the future of information services. a research paper on Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technology in Library and Information Services. These references are formatted in APA style and include key sources relevant to the topic. You can replace or expand these with actual sources you use.

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Role of Libraries in Sustainable Development

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Abstract:-

Libraries are crucial achieving on sustainable development (SD) by providing universal access to information, Fostering literacy and digital skills. Supporting research and innovation, Promoting environmental awareness and acting as community hubs for engagement and social inclusion. They act as catalysts for education, economic growth, and peace by empowering individuals and communities with the knowledge and resources needed to build sustainable future. This paper highlights the role of libraries in sustainable development, literacy skills, and digital world.

Keyword: Sustainable Development, Contribution of academic libraries.

Introduction:-

Today, Libraries are evaluated on their progress the sustainable development the using initiatives such as the recently socio-economic world. IFLA International Federation of Library Association and Institutions will work with our members, including library associations and institutions in 150 countries to ensure their readiness to support implementation of the sustainable development in their country and local through library services and programmes, including public access to Information Communication Technology ICT, and dedicated staff to help people develop new digital skills.

Worldwide public libraries and more than a million parliamentary, national, Universities science and research, School and Special Libraries ensure that information and the skills to use it are available to everyone making them critical institutions for all in the digital age. Libraries provide information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure, help people develop the capacity to effectively use information and preserve information to ensure ongoing access for future generation, They provide an established trusted network of local institutions that effectively reach new and marginalised populations. Library services contribute to improved outcomes across the sustainable development.

The formation of sustainable development is proceeding towards a turning point, giving rise to library movement comprising of libraries, librarians, towns, cities, colleges and university campuses executing to greening libraries and lessening their environmental impact. UN Depository Libraries support dissemination of information research to help decision makers achieve the sustainable development. Access to health, environmental, and agricultural information are targets of the sustainable development and libraries provide access to research and infrastructure, related to them, including open

access resources media and information literacy and illiteracy programmes for children, woman, adults and other marsainalized population make an important contribution to achieving universal literacy.

ITLA will build the capacity of its members through its to ensure that all librarians are ready to support the sustainable development, and through workshop and meetings in the regions and 150 countries where our members work including Africa, Asia and Oceania, Europe North America , and the Caribbean.

Role of Libraries in sustainable Development:-

Information Access:-

Libraries provide Free and equitable access to information, which is foundational element for achieving all 17 sustainable developments. This includes access to high quality research, health, environmental and agricultural information.

Research and Innovation Academic Libraries and providing access to open sources resources, libraries enable researchers to develop evidence based solutions and faster innovation for a better future.

Literacy and Skills Development:

They promote universal literacy, including media, information and digital literacy skills, which are vital for civic engagement, economic growth, and navigating the digital world.

Environmental sustainability:-

They raise awareness about environmental issues by providing access to information on topics like water conservation, energy use, and sanitation and by promoting environmentally responsible practices.

Community Hubs: -

Libraries serve as trusted community that foster social inclusion civic engagement as delivery points for various community programme

Specific Sustainable Development Support libraries:-

Quality:

By promoting literacy, providing open access educational resources and supporting lifelong learning.

Decent work and Economic Growth:-

Through support for entrepreneurship, providing access to market information and developing skills for a changing workforce.

Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions:-

By festering access to information that promotes transparency and resources to help people transmit, organize structure and effectively use information for development. Thus, library provides free internet access to its users to ensure access to information and protection of freedoms.

Overcoming Challenges:-

Fundings, Inadequate funding hinders libraries from expanding services and adopting new technologies.

Skilled personnel:-

Insufficiently trained staff can limit the quality and reach of library services.

Collaboration:

Stronger partnerships are needed between governments, libraries NGOs, and the private sector to overcome these barriers and maximize libraries impact.

Technology and Infrastructure:-

A lack of technological infrastructure limits their capacity to serve communities effectively.

Academic Libraries Contribution:-

Academic Libraries are instrumental in advancing the sustainable development they participate to educating by providing valuable and reliable information resources additionally, libraries actively engage in health literacy programs. Notably the Chinese University of Hong Kong Library has partnered with different university units to design initiatives and programs aimed at promoting good health and wellness.

Libraries provide publications of past research results that serve as references for other researchers. The collaboration between the Library and the office of research strategy implemented an open access policy and practice. This initiative enables the repository to host the research output of university members.

Features of Sustainable Development:-

1. Making use of reflective roof and regionally materials available.
2. Making use of reflective roof and ground and of course insulating windows.
3. Conserve sources such as paper, water and energy.
4. Minimizing the consumption of using energy efficient lighting.

Conclusion:

Libraries have a significant impact in the attainment of the sustainable development. They are considered worldwide as the most reliable information center that acquires processes, organizes stores, retrieves and disseminates information to users this study analyzes the nature of the main activities of academic libraries in light of their – sustainable development methodology by identifying the different services provides including access to collections, academic libraries contribute significantly to sustainability through various avenues such as digital initiatives, resource management, and technological innovations, Digital initiatives, including the digitization of resources and the implementation of online platforms. Support for literacy and ICT Skills, and access to community space.

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Digital India and Knowledge Equity: Libraries for Inclusive Development

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Abstract: The Digital India initiative seeks to transform the nation into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy by providing digital infrastructure, offering online services, and promoting digital literacy. In this framework, libraries are positioned as critical institutions for achieving knowledge equity, ensuring equitable and inclusive access to information across social, economic, and geographic divides.

Keyword: Digital India, Libraries, Knowledge Equity, Inclusive Growth, Digital Literacy, Digital Divide, Empowerment, ICT in Libraries

1. Introduction:

The twenty-first century is experiencing an extraordinary transformation propelled by digital technologies. In India, the Digital India initiative, which was launched in 2015, signifies a pivotal policy framework designed to create a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Its fundamental vision is based on three pillars: delivering digital infrastructure as a utility to every citizen, facilitating governance and services on demand, and ensuring the digital empowerment of all citizens. Although these objectives highlight access to technology, their genuine impact relies on the equitable participation of all segments of society in this transformation. In this regard, libraries—whether public, academic, or community—occupy a distinctive role as inclusive institutions of knowledge. They serve not only as repositories of books but also as gateways to information, digital services, and lifelong learning opportunities. By bridging the digital divide, promoting digital literacy, and providing multilingual and accessible resources, libraries are essential in advancing knowledge equity. Nevertheless, challenges such as gaps in infrastructure, funding, and capacity persist, hindering their potential. Therefore, examining the intersection of Digital India and libraries offers valuable insights into how inclusive access to knowledge can drive social and economic growth.

2. Literature Review:

The intersection of digital transformation, libraries, and inclusive growth has been widely studied in recent years. Scholars highlight the transformative potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in reshaping library services and bridging the digital divide.

➤ **Digital India and Digital Transformation**

The *Digital India* programme, launched in 2015, aims to provide universal digital access, governance, and literacy (MeitY, 2015). According to Sharma (2017), the initiative has redefined access to information by promoting ICT infrastructure, e-governance, and digital literacy as essential tools for development. Scholars argue that for Digital India to succeed, libraries must be positioned as community-level facilitators of information and technology (Kaur & Singh, 2019).

➤ **Libraries as Knowledge Hubs**

Historically, libraries have been custodians of information and cultural heritage. However, their role has shifted toward becoming dynamic knowledge hubs. Ghosh (2018) emphasizes that libraries in the digital age extend beyond physical collections to include e-resources, digital repositories, and information networks. Similarly, Kumar and Bansal (2020) note that public and academic libraries are increasingly leveraging ICTs to provide equitable access to information, thus promoting knowledge equity.

➤ **Knowledge Equity and Inclusive Growth**

Knowledge equity implies that every individual, irrespective of socio-economic status, should have equal access to information and learning opportunities (UNESCO, 2015). Libraries play a vital role in achieving this by offering digital literacy programs, access to online learning platforms, and community information services. According to Reddy (2021), libraries in rural India act as catalysts for inclusive growth by providing marginalized communities with access to information resources, e-governance services, and educational content.

➤ **Challenges in the Digital Library Ecosystem**

Despite their potential, Indian libraries face several challenges in embracing digital transformation. Studies highlight issues such as inadequate ICT infrastructure, lack of trained manpower, limited funding, and regional disparities in digital access (Patil & Patil, 2019). Furthermore, cultural and linguistic diversity creates additional barriers to ensuring knowledge equity in a multilingual nation like India (Joshi, 2020).

➤ **Innovative Approaches and Best Practices**

Some libraries have adopted innovative practices to overcome these challenges. For instance, mobile libraries, community digital kiosks, and partnerships with NGOs have been effective in reaching underserved populations (Chatterjee, 2022). The National Digital Library of India (NDLI) is also recognized as a landmark initiative in consolidating e-resources and making them freely accessible (Mishra, 2021).

In summary, the literature reveals that while the vision of *Digital India* provides a strong policy framework for digital empowerment, libraries are essential agents in translating this vision into practice. They serve as bridges between technology and society, ensuring that the benefits of digital transformation are accessible to all. However, sustainable infrastructure,

policy support, and capacity building are critical to achieving true knowledge equity through libraries.

3. Emerging Technology & Artificial Intelligence for Knowledge Equity in Libraries

1. Why AI matters for libraries in the Digital India context

Artificial intelligence — including machine learning, natural language processing (NLP), automated speech recognition, and computer vision — offers tools that can help libraries scale services (automated cataloguing, smarter search and recommendations), improve accessibility (text-to-speech, OCR for vernacular scripts), and personalise learning (adaptive learning paths, recommender systems). In India's Digital India ecosystem, where national platforms (e.g., NDLI) and government AI strategies are expanding digital public goods, AI can help libraries convert large digital collections into usable, discoverable, and locally relevant resources for diverse communities.

2. Concrete AI applications that advance knowledge equity

- **Multilingual search, machine translation and transliteration:** AI models can index and translate resources across India's many languages, lowering the language barrier for non-English speakers and helping regional content surface on national platforms and local catalogues. This is crucial in India, where multilingual access determines real uptake.
- **Optical character recognition (OCR) and digitization acceleration:** AI-powered OCR (including handwriting recognition) speeds digitization of regional manuscripts and printed matter, enabling preservation and reuse of local knowledge in digital repositories. Libraries can thus incorporate vernacular heritage into NDLI and local discovery systems.
- **Accessibility tools and assistive AI:** Text-to-speech, automated audio summaries, image descriptions, and screen-reader friendly content generation expand access for people with visual or reading disabilities, significantly advancing equitable access.
- **Smart reference and virtual assistants:** AI chatbots or virtual reference agents can provide 24/7 mediated support for basic queries, navigation of e-government services, and guided learning — especially helpful in understaffed public libraries. Research shows libraries are already piloting such systems to augment human staff.

3. Systemic benefits: discovery, curation and personalization

At scale, AI enables better discovery (semantic search, entity linking), automatic metadata creation (classification, subject extraction), and recommender systems that personalise learning pathways for different age, language, or skill groups. For NDLI-type repositories and local OPACs, these capabilities reduce the effort required by users to find relevant, contextually useful material — a central requirement for knowledge equity.

4. Risks, ethical challenges and governance

AI implementations also introduce risks that can undermine equity if left unchecked: algorithmic bias (favoring majority languages or literate users), opaque decision-making, privacy concerns (especially when supporting vulnerable users), and capacity asymmetries between well-funded urban libraries and under-resourced rural ones. International and library sector bodies recommend ethical frameworks and proactive governance — for example, aligning with UNESCO's AI ethics guidance and IFLA's strategic AI guidance — to ensure AI supports inclusion rather than deepening divides.

5. Institutional readiness and human capital

Empirical surveys of Indian library professionals show awareness and interest in AI but also document skills gaps and infrastructure constraints (bandwidth, compute, digitization capacity). Capacity building (training in AI-augmented cataloguing, data stewardship, and user-facing tools) plus shared national infrastructure (APIs, models, and language resources) can lower barriers for smaller libraries. Policy instruments (NITI Aayog / India AI initiatives; MeitY programs) can provide coordination and funding pathways.

6. Practical pathway (policy + practice) for inclusive AI in libraries

1. **Shared language & OCR models as public goods:** Fund and host open multilingual NLP/OCR models that libraries can use (reduces duplication and cost).
2. **National APIs & plug-and-play tools:** NDLI and government AI programs should expose APIs for search, recommendation, and accessibility so local OPACs and community library apps can integrate advanced features without heavy technical lift.
3. **Ethics, privacy & explainability standards:** Adopt library-specific AI guidance (aligned with UNESCO/IFLA) covering consent, data minimization, bias audits, and human-in-the-loop workflows.
4. **Capacity programs for librarians:** National certification curricula for AI-enabled library services and hands-on toolkits for digitization, metadata, and community outreach.
5. **Pilot & evaluate:** Run geographically diverse pilots (urban, tribal, rural) that evaluate outcomes (learning gains, service usage by marginalized groups) and publish open evaluations to guide scale-up.

5. Role of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force in reshaping the functions and services of libraries, especially in the context of **Digital India**. By leveraging AI, libraries are moving beyond their traditional roles as repositories of information to become active agents of **knowledge equity and inclusive growth**.

1. Automated Cataloguing and Metadata Creation

AI tools facilitate automatic subject indexing, classification, and metadata generation, reducing manual workload and ensuring faster accessibility of resources. This accelerates digitization projects in initiatives like the **National Digital Library of India (NDLI)**.

2. Enhanced Discovery and Personalized Services

Through natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning, AI enables semantic search, multilingual information retrieval, and personalized recommendation systems. This ensures users from diverse linguistic and educational backgrounds can easily find relevant resources, supporting inclusivity.

3. Multilingual Access and Translation

India's linguistic diversity poses barriers to equitable knowledge access. AI-driven translation and transliteration tools allow libraries to provide resources in multiple regional languages, bridging gaps between English-dominated content and vernacular users.

4. Assistive Technologies for Accessibility

AI-powered text-to-speech systems, image recognition, and screen-reader support make library resources accessible to visually impaired and differently-abled individuals, thereby advancing digital inclusivity.

5. Virtual Reference and Chatbots

Libraries increasingly deploy AI-based virtual assistants to provide **24/7 reference services**, guiding users in accessing e-resources, government services, and learning materials. This is particularly valuable in rural and under-resourced areas.

6. Preservation and Digitization of Cultural Heritage

AI tools such as Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and handwriting recognition support large-scale digitization of manuscripts and archives, ensuring preservation of India's multilingual and multicultural heritage.

7. Data-Driven Decision Making

By analyzing user behavior and circulation patterns, AI helps libraries optimize resource allocation, design tailored services, and identify knowledge gaps, thus contributing to evidence-based growth strategies.

6. Emerging Technologies in Libraries

The rapid digital transformation under the **Digital India initiative** has redefined the role of libraries, positioning them as critical enablers of **knowledge equity**. Alongside Artificial Intelligence (AI), several **emerging technologies** are reshaping how libraries deliver information, ensure accessibility, and engage with diverse communities.

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML)

AI is powering intelligent cataloguing, semantic search, predictive analytics, and personalized recommendations. Machine learning models also enable multilingual search and accessibility tools, directly supporting knowledge equity in a multilingual country like India (Subaveerapandiyan & Gozali, 2024).

2. Big Data and Analytics

Libraries generate vast amounts of user and circulation data. Big Data analytics allows institutions to track usage trends, evaluate resource effectiveness, and design tailored services for different communities, ensuring data-driven inclusivity (NITI Aayog, 2018).

3. Cloud Computing

Cloud platforms provide scalable storage and access to digital repositories such as the **National Digital Library of India (NDLI)**. This enhances resource sharing, reduces infrastructure costs, and enables access in rural and remote areas (MeitY / IndiaAI, 2023).

4. Internet of Things (IoT)

IoT technologies such as smart sensors, RFID tagging, and automated check-in/check-out systems improve resource management, security, and user experience. They also help libraries track physical and digital usage patterns more effectively (IFLA, 2023).

5. Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR)

AR/VR tools are increasingly applied in interactive learning environments, virtual exhibitions, and cultural heritage experiences. They allow users to engage with

historical collections and immersive educational content, enhancing inclusivity through experiential learning (UNESCO, 2023).

6. Blockchain Technolog

Blockchain offers secure digital identity management, copyright protection, and transparent transactions in e-resource lending. It can be especially useful for maintaining trust and integrity in open-access and knowledge-sharing ecosystems (IFLA, 2025).

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Knowledge Hubs for a Sustainable Future: The Role of Libraries in Achieving SDGs

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Abstract

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations in 2015, provide a comprehensive framework for addressing global challenges including poverty, inequality, education, and climate change. Libraries, once seen primarily as repositories of books, are now recognized as dynamic knowledge hubs that support education, innovation, inclusivity, and sustainable growth. This article examines the vital role of libraries in advancing the SDGs, highlighting their contributions to education, gender equality, digital literacy, cultural preservation, and climate awareness. It argues that strengthening libraries is essential for creating inclusive, informed, and sustainable societies.

Keywords: *Libraries, Sustainable Development Goals, Knowledge Hubs, Information Access, Digital Literacy, Community Empowerment*

1. Introduction

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development marked a global commitment to achieving prosperity, peace, and environmental sustainability. Central to this agenda are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which call for collaborative efforts by governments, institutions, and communities worldwide.

Libraries, as community-centered knowledge institutions, are uniquely positioned to advance these goals. They ensure equitable access to information, foster lifelong learning, and empower communities to participate actively in sustainable development. The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) has emphasized that libraries are not passive participants but active partners in achieving the SDGs. This article explores the evolving role of libraries as knowledge hubs for a sustainable future, highlighting their contributions, challenges, and opportunities within the framework of the SDGs.

2. Conceptual framework

2.1 Library

A library is an organized collection of information resources—such as books, periodicals, digital media, and other knowledge materials—maintained by trained professionals to provide access to information, education, research support, cultural enrichment, and lifelong learning. Libraries may be physical, digital, or hybrid spaces, and they function as knowledge hubs that ensure equitable access to information for individuals and communities.

According to the American Library Association (ALA), “A library is a collection of resources in a variety of formats that is organized and made accessible for reading, consultation, study, and research.”

2.2 Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It emphasizes a balance between economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection.

The United Nations (1987, Brundtland Report) defines it as: “Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

It is guided by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015, addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, education, health, climate change, and peace.

3. Libraries as Knowledge Hubs in the 21st Century

Modern libraries have transitioned from silent reading rooms to vibrant learning and innovation spaces. As knowledge hubs, they:

- Provide equitable access to information resources, both print and digital.
- Support digital literacy and ICT training to bridge the digital divide.
- Serve as cultural and heritage repositories, preserving indigenous knowledge.
- Offer safe, inclusive, and democratic spaces for dialogue and learning.
- Collaborate with schools, universities, and NGOs to foster lifelong education.

Thus, libraries embody the principle of “information for all,” directly linking their mission to sustainable development.

4. Libraries and the Sustainable Development Goals

1. SDG 4: Quality Education

Libraries promote inclusive and equitable quality education by:

- Offering free access to textbooks, open educational resources (OERs), and e-learning platforms.
- Supporting literacy programs for children, youth, and adults.
- Providing lifelong learning opportunities through workshops, reading clubs, and community training.

For example, public libraries in India have introduced digital literacy initiatives, enabling rural populations to access online education and government services.

2. SDG 5: Gender Equality

Libraries act as safe spaces that empower women and girls by:

- Offering skill-building and vocational training programs.
- Providing information on health, legal rights, and entrepreneurship.
- Hosting women-only reading circles and mentorship initiatives.

By ensuring equal access, libraries reduce the barriers faced by women in education and knowledge-sharing.

3. SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Libraries contribute to economic empowerment by:

- Offering job search assistance and career guidance.
- Organizing workshops on entrepreneurship, business management, and digital tools.
- Connecting communities with government employment schemes.

Digital libraries and makerspaces also promote creativity and innovation, preparing individuals for future industries.

4. SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

Libraries foster innovation by:

- Providing access to ICT infrastructure and the internet.
- Establishing makerspaces, coding clubs, and digital labs.
- Supporting start-ups and small-scale entrepreneurs with resources and training.

They thus act as innovation incubators, especially in developing economies where access to technology is limited.

5. SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Libraries strengthen community resilience by:

- Preserving cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge.
- Serving as community centers for civic dialogue and participation.
- Offering disaster awareness and response information.

Through archives and local collections, libraries safeguard cultural diversity for future generations.

6. SDG 13: Climate Action

Libraries play a key role in environmental awareness by:

- Organizing campaigns and exhibitions on climate change and sustainability.
- Providing access to research on renewable energy, conservation, and green practices.
- Partnering with NGOs to promote eco-friendly community initiatives.

Libraries thus help translate scientific research into actionable community knowledge.

5. Challenges Facing Libraries in Achieving SDGs

Despite their potential, libraries encounter several obstacles:

- Limited funding: restricts technological upgrades and service expansion.
- Digital divide: persists, particularly in rural areas with poor internet access.
- Lack of awareness: among policymakers about the role of libraries in SDG implementation.
- Capacity-building needs: for library professionals to adapt to new roles in digital and community services.

These challenges require strategic investments, policy support, and partnerships.

6. Opportunities for Strengthening Libraries

- ✓ Policy Integration: Governments must include libraries in national SDG implementation strategies.
- ✓ Digital Transformation: Expanding ICT infrastructure and open access platforms in libraries.
- ✓ Capacity Building: Training librarians in digital skills, community engagement, and research support.
- ✓ Collaborative Partnerships: Partnering with schools, universities, NGOs, and tech companies to expand services.
- ✓ Community Outreach: Designing programs tailored to local needs, such as agricultural information services in rural areas.

Conclusion:

Libraries, as evolving knowledge hubs, are indispensable partners in achieving the SDGs. They bridge gaps in information, education, and technology while fostering inclusivity, innovation, and sustainability. By empowering individuals and communities, libraries lay the foundation for equitable and sustainable societies. Strengthening libraries is not just an investment in culture and education but a powerful strategy for building a sustainable future.

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Artificial Intelligence & Emerging Technologies in Reengineering College Libraries: Pathway to Viksit Bharat @2047

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Abstract

This paper focuses on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies are transforming every sector, including higher education and libraries. College libraries, traditionally dependent on manual processes, are now compelled to adopt intelligent systems for cataloguing, digital resource management, user services, and decision-making. This paper explores the role of AI and emerging technologies in reengineering college libraries to align with India's vision of *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

The paper discusses mainly the concept of Artificial Intelligence. Emerging technologies are transforming college libraries into smart, user-centred spaces by automating workflows, enabling personalized access, and supporting research through tools like chatbots, NLP, recommender systems, machine learning, RFID, cloud services, and generative AI.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Emerging Technologies, College Libraries, Reengineering, Digital Transformation, Viksit Bharat @2047

Introduction:

India is at a decisive stage of transformation where technology-driven growth, innovation, and sustainable development are central to its journey towards *Viksit Bharat @2047*. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisions a holistic, multidisciplinary, and research-oriented education system that integrates digital technology and artificial intelligence across teaching, learning, and knowledge dissemination. Within this framework, libraries often called the “knowledge hubs” of academic institutions play a pivotal role. To meet the future demands of learners and researchers, traditional college libraries must undergo reengineering, shifting from conventional manual operations to intelligent, technology-enabled ecosystems. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies provide unprecedented opportunities for this transformation. India's youth who will be the driving force of *Viksit Bharat* such libraries will not merely serve as repositories of books but as innovation-driven, collaborative learning spaces aligned with national priorities in research, innovation, and sustainable growth.

Thus, reengineering college libraries with AI and emerging technologies is not just a matter of modernization but a strategic necessity to achieve the vision of *NEP 2020* and contribute to India's journey towards becoming a global knowledge superpower by 2047.

Concept of Artificial Intelligence & Emerging Technologies:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies represent a new paradigm in information management, reshaping the way knowledge is created, organized, and accessed. AI refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines that can learn, reason, and make decisions

(Russell & Norvig, 2021). When applied to libraries, AI enables automation of cataloguing, personalized recommendations, natural language search, and predictive analytics, thereby improving user experience and operational efficiency. Emerging technologies such as cloud computing, Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, and generative AI further extend these capabilities by offering scalable access, automated circulation, and innovative research support.

Concept of Viksit Bharat @2047:

On 11 December 2023, The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth' via video conferencing. During the program, Prime Minister Modi addressed the Vice Chancellors of Universities, Heads of Institutes and faculty members in workshops organized at Raj Bhawans across the country to mark the beginning of this initiative.

AI Tools for College Library Services:

Artificial Intelligence is playing a transformative role in reengineering college library services by making them smarter, faster, and more user-oriented. In the area of cataloguing and classification, AI-based tools like *OCLC WorldCat* and *Google Cloud Vision* help generate automatic metadata, assign subject headings, and even recognize book covers for easier indexing. This reduces manual workload and ensures that collections are organized more efficiently.

For reference and user support, many libraries are adopting AI chatbots such as *LibChat* or GPT-based virtual assistants. These systems provide 24/7 support to students by answering frequently asked questions, guiding them to relevant databases, and assisting in research queries. Voice-based services through tools like *Amazon Alexa for Libraries* further enhance user interaction by enabling hands-free information search.

When it comes to information discovery and retrieval, semantic search engines like *Yewno Discover* and research assistants like *Iris.ai* help students and faculty explore knowledge beyond keywords. These AI systems analyze the meaning of queries and connect users with related concepts, making literature searches more comprehensive and user-friendly.

In the field of collection development and acquisitions, predictive analytics powered by *Tableau AI insights* or *Clarivate Analytics* guide librarians in identifying high-demand subjects and forecasting future needs. This ensures that library budgets are utilized effectively to build relevant collections. Similarly, in circulation services, RFID systems combined with AI algorithms help track user behaviour, predict book demand, and reduce losses through automated check-in and check-out systems.

AI also strengthens research integrity and learning support. Tools such as *Turnitin* and *iThenticate* assist in plagiarism detection, while summarization and citation tools like *Scholarcy* and *Scite.ai* help students review large volumes of research quickly. For digitization and preservation, AI-powered OCR tools like *Tesseract* and restoration applications like *DeOldify* enable libraries to preserve rare manuscripts and make them accessible in digital formats.

What care to be taken while using ICT:

When integrating Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies in reengineering college library services, several important aspects need to be taken care of. Firstly, data privacy and security must be ensured, as AI tools often collect user data to personalize services. Libraries should adopt strong data protection policies to safeguard student and faculty information. Secondly, quality and accuracy of AI-generated content—such as metadata, semantic tags, or recommendations should be regularly monitored to avoid misinformation and bias. Thirdly, digital inclusivity is crucial; AI systems must be designed in a way that supports multiple languages and is accessible to differently-abled users, ensuring equitable access to resources. Additionally, staff training and capacity building should be prioritized so that librarians are equipped to use and manage these technologies effectively. Attention must also be given to cost-effectiveness and sustainability, ensuring that AI tools are affordable, scalable, and aligned with institutional needs. Finally, ethical considerations such as avoiding over-reliance on machines and preserving the human element in academic guidance are vital for maintaining the balance between technology and pedagogy. By addressing these concerns, AI-driven library services can truly contribute to the vision of *Viksit Bharat @2047*, fostering innovation, inclusivity, and excellence in higher education.

Thus, AI tools are not only enhancing efficiency but also making college libraries vital hubs of innovation, aligning with the vision of *Viksit Bharat @2047* by creating knowledge ecosystems that support advanced learning, research, and inclusivity.

Strategic Considerations for AI and Emerging Technology Integration in College Libraries:

Technology Adoption & Infrastructure Explanation: For AI and emerging tech (e.g., IoT, VR/AR, blockchain) to work, college libraries need robust infrastructure: high-speed internet, cloud storage, digitization hardware, reliable power, software platforms. Without infrastructure, theoretical benefits won't materialize.

Data Governance, Privacy, & Ethics Explanation: AI tools often rely on data — user behavior, borrowing history, etc. Upkeep of user privacy, ethical use, informed consent, transparency in algorithmic decisions is crucial. Biases in AI models must be addressed. **Skill Development & Capacity Building Explanation:** Librarians and library staff need to be trained in AI tools, data analytics, digital preservation methods etc. Also, upskilling users to use AI-enabled services (search, chatbots) is important. Resistance to change can be mitigated by training & awareness.

User-Centred Design & Accessibility Explanation: Emerging technologies should be designed keeping users in mind: students, faculty, researchers, people with disabilities. Accessibility features (e.g., assistive technologies) must be integrated. The services must be intuitive and reduce friction, not add complexity. **Policy, Funding, Sustainability Explanation:** To scale and sustain AI/tech initiatives, coherent policies (at institutional, state, national level) are needed. Funding models, maintenance costs, updating tech etc. must be planned. Also

alignment with national educational and digital policies (e.g. NEP 2020, India's digital infrastructure goals).

Digital Inclusion & Equity Explanation: Ensuring that reengineering doesn't deepen divides (rural vs urban, high-resourced vs low-resourced colleges, students with disabilities). Tools must support multiple languages, low-bandwidth settings etc. Evaluation, Monitoring, and Feedback Mechanisms Explanation: After implementation, periodic assessment of impact (on user satisfaction, usage stats, cost-benefit etc.), monitoring of unintended effects, feedback loops to refine the services. Alignment with National Vision (Viksit Bharat 2047) Explanation: Tie the technological transformation of libraries into broader national goals — such as knowledge economy, research output, innovation ecosystems, digital literacy, global competitiveness. How college libraries can contribute to producing quality research, support entrepreneurship, cultural preservation etc. - suggest the title of this content

Conclusion:

Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies are not merely tools of automation, but powerful enablers of transformation in college libraries. By reengineering traditional services such as cataloguing, circulation, reference support, and digital preservation AI-driven solutions can enhance accessibility, efficiency, and user-centricity. These advancements align directly with the vision of *Viksit Bharat @2047*, where knowledge institutions are expected to play a central role in shaping an innovative, inclusive, and globally competitive India. College libraries, empowered with AI and digital technologies, will act as smart knowledge hubs that nurture critical thinking, lifelong learning, and research excellence. Thus, embracing AI in library reengineering is not just a technological upgrade, but a strategic pathway to achieving the aspirations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and building a knowledge-driven, developed nation by 2047.

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Reimagining Library Services through AI-Driven Strategies for Sustainable Academic Libraries

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Abstract: Academic libraries are experiencing a paradigm shift fuelled by Artificial Intelligence (AI), transforming them into adaptive, efficient, and inclusive knowledge hubs. This paper explores the integration of AI technologies in academic libraries with a focus on enhancing sustainability across environmental, economic, and social dimensions. From intelligent cataloguing to personalized user experiences and predictive analytics, AI applications are reshaping service delivery while promoting the broader goals of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The study examines global case studies and highlights key challenges such as ethical considerations, algorithmic bias, and the digital skill gap. A strategic roadmap is proposed to facilitate responsible and equitable AI adoption. The findings emphasize that AI, when implemented ethically and inclusively, can redefine the mission of academic libraries in the 21st century.

Keywords: Academic Libraries, Artificial Intelligence, Sustainability, Digital Transformation, Library Services, SDGs, Information Access, Ethical AI, Library Automation, Inclusive Technology

1. Introduction

Academic libraries have long served as hubs of knowledge, research, and education. Traditionally, they offered curated collections, research support, and learning environments essential for students and scholars. Artificial Intelligence (AI), a transformative force in many sectors, presents new opportunities to reimagine library services. AI refers to machines' ability to mimic human intelligence processes such as learning, reasoning, and problem-solving. In libraries, AI applications include automated cataloging, virtual reference services, personalized content recommendations, and intelligent data analytics (Chen, 2020). Sustainability in academic libraries now extends beyond environmental concerns to encompass economic efficiency, digital equity, and inclusive access. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasize these broader dimensions, including goals related to education, infrastructure, and innovation (United Nations, 2015). AI can support these goals by promoting resource efficiency, reducing physical dependency through digitization, and improving accessibility through tools like language translation, text-to-speech, and adaptive interfaces. The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) highlights that sustainable libraries must leverage digital technologies to meet the evolving needs of users

while preserving long-term access to information (IFLA, 2021). In this context, integrating AI into library systems not only modernizes services but also supports the mission of academic institutions to offer inclusive, efficient, and future-ready learning environments.

2. Objectives

1. To explore the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in modernizing academic library services.
2. To assess how AI contributes to environmental, economic, and social sustainability in libraries.
3. To examine real-world case studies showcasing successful AI integration in academic and national libraries.
4. To identify challenges and limitations in implementing AI technologies in academic libraries.
5. To propose a strategic roadmap for sustainable AI adoption in academic library systems.

3. AI Applications in Academic Libraries

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into academic libraries has opened new dimensions for improving service delivery, user satisfaction, and resource management. Various AI-powered solutions are reshaping how libraries operate and interact with users.

3.1 Intelligent Cataloguing and Metadata Management

One of the primary areas where AI has shown tremendous promise is in cataloguing and metadata creation. Traditionally, a labour-intensive task, metadata management is now increasingly automated through AI. Machine learning algorithms can classify, tag, and index digital and physical resources based on their content and usage patterns. For instance, Stanford University Libraries employ AI to automate subject tagging and enrich metadata, allowing more accurate and quicker retrieval of information (Tenopir et al., 2020). This automation not only saves time but also ensures greater consistency and discoverability in catalogue entries.

3.2 Virtual Reference Services and Chatbots

AI-driven chatbots have revolutionized library help desks by providing real-time, 24/7 support. Chatbots like “Libby” and “Emma” use Natural Language Processing (NLP) to understand user queries and offer relevant responses. These bots assist in navigating online catalogs, databases, and general inquiries, reducing the load on human librarians (Luo et al., 2021). They also learn from interactions, continuously improving their accuracy and scope over time. Especially during the pandemic, such tools ensured uninterrupted support for remote users.

3.3 Personalized Recommendations

AI facilitates a shift from one-size-fits-all library services to personalized user experiences. Recommendation engines analyse borrowing history, search behaviour, and academic profiles to suggest resources aligned with user needs. This approach mirrors commercial platforms like Netflix or Amazon but is tailored for academic contexts. For example, MIT Libraries have experimented with AI to provide customized research assistance and content suggestions based on individual user profiles (McClellan & McKenzie, 2022). This improves user engagement and resource utilization.

3.4 Predictive Analytics for Collection Development

Collection development in libraries often suffers from budget constraints and unpredictable user demand. AI-powered predictive analytics offer a solution by examining citation data, course syllabi, and historical usage trends to forecast future resource needs. Librarians can thus make informed decisions, aligning acquisitions with actual academic requirements. Gonzalez and Young (2020) highlight how such data-driven approaches reduce wasteful spending and ensure collections remain relevant and dynamic.

3.5 AI in Information Retrieval

Traditional keyword searches are limited in understanding user intent, often yielding irrelevant results. AI enhances this through semantic search capabilities. Semantic engines use contextual understanding to interpret queries more accurately. Tools like Yewno leverage knowledge graphs that connect related concepts, offering a more holistic view of a research topic (Kumar & Bansal, 2022). Such AI-powered discovery systems empower users to explore interdisciplinary resources more effectively, a critical requirement in today's complex academic landscape.

4. AI for Sustainability in Academic Libraries

Artificial Intelligence (AI) contributes significantly to the sustainability of academic libraries through environmental, economic, and social dimensions, in alignment with global goals such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

4.1 Environmental Sustainability

AI technologies reduce the environmental impact of libraries by minimizing paper-based workflows and optimizing energy consumption. Smart sensors and AI-based systems regulate lighting, HVAC, and power usage according to real-time occupancy, resulting in significant energy savings. Moreover, digitization and virtual services reduce the dependence on printed resources, contributing to sustainable library operations (Singh & Sharma, 2021).

4.2 Economic Sustainability

AI helps achieve economic sustainability by automating repetitive library tasks such as cataloguing, user alerts, report generation, and data analysis. These efficiencies allow libraries to save operational costs and redirect human resources toward more strategic services like digital literacy training and community outreach. For instance, libraries that implemented AI systems reported a 30–40% reduction in administrative overhead (Fang et al., 2022).

4.3 Social Sustainability

AI fosters inclusivity and accessibility, thereby promoting social sustainability. Tools like voice-assisted search, text-to-speech systems, screen readers, and adaptive user interfaces make library resources accessible to differently-abled individuals. Additionally, AI-enabled language translation and personalization engines ensure that users from diverse linguistic and educational backgrounds can benefit equally from library services. These initiatives support SDG 4: "Quality Education for All" by ensuring equitable access to information (UNESCO, 2020).

5. Challenges in AI Integration

Despite the promising potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in transforming academic libraries, several critical challenges must be acknowledged and addressed to ensure responsible, inclusive, and sustainable adoption.

5.1 Ethical and Privacy Concerns

AI systems require extensive data collection and analysis, raising significant ethical concerns regarding user consent, surveillance, and data privacy. Libraries often handle sensitive patron data, and the use of AI tools must align with strict data protection laws such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Ensuring transparency in how user data is used, stored, and protected is essential for maintaining trust and legal compliance (Johnson, 2021).

5.2 Algorithmic Bias

AI and machine learning algorithms are only as unbiased as the data they are trained on. If training datasets are incomplete or skewed toward dominant perspectives, the resulting AI systems may reinforce academic or cultural biases. This can lead to unequal access to information or the marginalization of minority disciplines and viewpoints. Regular audits of AI outputs, as well as the inclusion of diverse and representative datasets, are necessary to combat this challenge (Crawford, 2021).

5.3 Skill Gap and Infrastructure

Effective AI deployment requires skilled professionals, robust IT infrastructure, and financial investment. However, many academic libraries—especially in developing nations—lack the trained personnel and resources required to implement and maintain AI tools. This disparity contributes to the widening digital divide in global education and research. Addressing this issue calls for targeted policy support, capacity-building programs, and international collaborations to enable equitable AI adoption (IFLA, 2021).

6. Case Studies and Global Practices

To understand the practical impact of AI in academic and national libraries, several pioneering institutions around the world have implemented innovative solutions that align with sustainability, efficiency, and user-centric goals. These real-world examples offer insights into how AI can transform library services globally.

6.1 National Library of Singapore

The National Library Board of Singapore has implemented AI technologies to provide smart navigation systems within library premises. Patrons can use mobile apps for real-time book location, availability status, and even crowd monitoring to avoid peak hours. These features optimize user convenience while enhancing space and energy utilization—contributing to environmental sustainability and digital innovation (National Library Board Singapore, 2021).

6.2 University of Huddersfield (UK)

The University of Huddersfield has adopted AI-driven learning analytics to examine patterns in library usage among students. The insights help predict potential dropout risks, enabling timely academic support. By correlating book borrowing, digital access, and attendance data, the system supports social and academic sustainability by fostering student retention and success (Stone, 2020).

6.3 IIT Bombay Central Library (India)

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay's Central Library is piloting AI-based semantic search tools to enhance research discovery. Integrated with institutional repositories, this system helps students and faculty find contextually relevant research outputs, especially in indigenous and local studies. The initiative is a step toward making research more accessible, context-aware, and user-friendly—supporting intellectual inclusivity and the localization of knowledge (Deshmukh & Kale, 2023).

7. Roadmap for AI-Driven Sustainable Libraries

To ensure responsible, equitable, and sustainable implementation of Artificial Intelligence in academic libraries, a well-defined roadmap is essential. The following components outline key steps institutions can take:

7.1 Policy and Planning

Academic libraries must establish formal AI usage policies that address ethical data handling, algorithmic transparency, procurement standards, and institutional responsibilities. These policies should align with the library's strategic goals, ensuring that AI integration enhances user experience and academic outcomes while safeguarding privacy and equity (IFLA, 2021).

7.2 Capacity Building

AI adoption requires librarians to acquire new competencies. Regular training workshops, short-term certification courses, and interdisciplinary collaboration with computer science or data analytics departments can bridge the skill gap. Empowering library professionals with foundational knowledge of AI, data management, and ethical frameworks is critical for long-term success (Fang et al., 2022).

7.3 Collaborative Networks

Participating in national and global AI-focused library networks can accelerate knowledge sharing and innovation. Initiatives like the Library AI Network, OpenAI for Education, and the AI4LAM (Artificial Intelligence for Libraries, Archives and Museums) community offer open-source tools, datasets, and peer collaboration opportunities. Such partnerships enable resource sharing and reduce the cost of AI adoption (Tenopir et al., 2020).

7.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

Continuous evaluation is necessary to assess the performance and impact of AI applications. Libraries should develop KPIs for AI-driven services, covering areas like user satisfaction, efficiency, and sustainability outcomes. Implementing feedback mechanisms will help refine systems and ensure that they remain user-centric and inclusive over time (McClellan & McKenzie, 2022).

8. Conclusion

The future of academic libraries lies in embracing innovation while upholding core values of accessibility, intellectual freedom, and service to the scholarly community. AI presents a unique opportunity to reimagine library services in ways that are smart, inclusive, and sustainable. However, successful implementation depends on ethical use, staff empowerment, and visionary leadership. As academic institutions worldwide adapt to the

digital era, libraries must lead the charge, not as passive repositories, but as intelligent, sustainable hubs of knowledge.

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Contribution of libraries in realizing sustainable development

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➤ Abstract:

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development involves using the earth's resources for development while also ensuring that future generations use them responsibly. Sustainable Development includes No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well Being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water & Sanitation, Affordable & Clean Energy, Decent Work & Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure, Reduce Inequality Goal, Sustainable Cities & Communities, Responsible Consumption, Climate Action, Life below Water, Life on Land, Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions and Partnership for the Goals. This article focuses on contribution of Libraries in Sustainable development Goals (SDGs).

➤ **Keywords: Sustainable Development Goal, Contribution, Libraries and Resources.**

➤ Introduction:

Sustainable development, which is a development model that can meet the needs of future generations and the present, began to make a name for itself at the end of the 20th century as a result of the industrial revolution, developments in production and environmental crises in the world. With the signing of international agreements in the 1990s, it has become a global implementation plan. The understanding of sustainable development is based on working on a common denominator based on “sustainability” in many areas, such as not only economic but also social development, business models and lifestyles. Sustainable development, which aims to shape both the present and the future in line with this common goal, is shaped by the good setup and parallelism of the relationship between the environment and socio-economic development. In other words, sustainable development, in its most general definition, is a holistic philosophy that evaluates the interaction of economic structures, social structures and the environment and works for the development of both present and future generations. This article discusses the contribution of libraries to the sustainable development of humanity. The definition of sustainable development would not be complete without mentioning its goals. Within the framework of the Agenda 2030 approved by the United Nations, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were

established, which provide a roadmap for addressing global challenges while prioritizing sustainability.

Definitions:

1. **Sustainable development** is an approach to social, economic, and environmental planning that seeks to balance the social and economic needs of present and future human generations while preserving the natural environment.
2. **A contribution** is something you contribute or do together with other people to create or achieve something or to make something successful.
3. **A resource** is a source which is used by man to fulfill his desires. An object is always present in nature, but it is not called a resource unless humans interfere with it. Every object available in our environment is called a resource which we can use to meet our needs, which we have the technology to make and which is culturally acceptable to use.

Some of the most notable goals are:

➤ Sustainable development goals :

1. **End poverty:** The number of people living in extreme poverty fell by more than half between 1990 and 2015, to 1.9 billion 836 million, yet many still struggle to meet basic human needs such as health, education, clean water and sanitation. Goal 1 aims to ensure that everyone has access to food, shelter, clothing, health and education so that they can participate fully in society.
2. **End hunger:** This global goal expresses the aim of ending world hunger, achieving food security and good nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture.
3. **Health and quality of life:** When people are in good health, the well-being of society increases. Therefore, this goal aims to ensure healthy and quality lives for all at all ages.
4. **Quality education:** “Quality education” is the global goal to provide inclusive and equitable quality education for all and promote lifelong learning opportunities. Deep poverty, armed conflict and other immediate crises have made progress in education very difficult in some developing regions.
5. **Gender Equality:** Eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls are not only a fundamental human right but also essential for accelerating sustainable development. It has been proven time and time again that empowering women and girls creates a multiplier effect and accelerates economic growth and development in all sectors.
6. **Clean water and sanitation:** Water scarcity affects more than 40% of the world’s population; this rate, already at alarming levels due to global warming as a result of climate change, is expected to increase further. While 2.1 billion people have gained access to improved water

and sanitation since 1990, the lack of access to safe drinking water is a major problem affecting all continents.

- 7. Affordable and clean energy:** it is an important goal of affordable and clean energy includes ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. A global economy based on fossil fuels and increasing greenhouse gas emissions are causing profound changes to our climate system. These changes affect all continents.
- 8. Decent work and economic growth:** The goal of “decent work and economic growth” includes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure:** Build resilient infrastructure, support inclusive and sustainable industrialization and strengthen innovation. With more than half of the world’s population living in cities, public transport and renewable energy are more important than ever. Supporting sustainable industries and investing in scientific research and innovation are key ways to make sustainable development possible.
- 10. Reduce inequality:** Reduce inequality within and among countries. Income inequality is a global problem that demands global solutions. This includes improving the regulation and supervision of financial markets and institutions, and directing development assistance and foreign direct investment to areas where it is most needed.
- 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities:** Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Extreme poverty is often concentrated in urban areas; national and local governments are working to accommodate the growing population in these areas.
- 12. Responsible Production and Consumption:** To ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns. To achieve economic growth and sustainable development, we must urgently reduce our environmental footprint by changing the way we produce and consumer goods and resources.
- 13. Climate Action:** Climate action is taking immediate action to combat climate change and its impacts. The United Nations has declared climate change to be the greatest threat to development.
- 14. Life in Water:** Conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- 15. Terrestrial life:** These include the goals of ensuring sustainable forest management; combating desertification; halting and reversing land degradation; and halting the loss of biodiversity.

16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Building peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development means ensuring justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

17. Partnerships for Purpose: Our world is more interconnected than ever before. With increasing access to technology and knowledge, one important way to exchange ideas and support innovation is through partnerships for purpose.

As mentioned above, the goals necessary for sustainable development have been provided.

➤ **Contribution of the Library in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals:**

Libraries play a key role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Libraries and information centers are seen as centers of research and places of information empowerment globally. Library and Information Centers are an organization that works to select, order, acquire process, store and preserve resources in various formats at the right time for the users. Nicholas has said in this regard that a library is an information center that performs the functions of acquiring, organizing, storing, retrieving and disseminating information to readers. The following is a discussion of the contribution of libraries to the Sustainable Development Goals:

- 1. No poverty:** Libraries and information centers are important in providing information. Information is an important hub Therefore; they should provide meaningful information in a packaged form on poverty relief and liquidation. Microfinance for poverty decrease, and act as libraries and information centers.
- 2. Zero hunger:** Libraries and information centers should utilize their resources appropriately to create awareness for the eradication of extreme hunger and provide information on all types of sustainable agricultural practices.
- 3. Good Health and well life:** Libraries and information centers should provide information in print and electronic formats to the public to help them reduce child mortality and improve maternal health. Libraries should ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including family planning, information and education, and integration of reproductive services.
- 4. Quality Education:** Libraries and information centers should provide information literacy skills and lifelong learning to the public by educating and equipping youth and adults with relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

5. **Gender Equality:** Libraries and information centers should promote gender equality and, when selecting information resources, libraries should use enabling technologies, particularly information and communication technologies, to promote women's empowerment.
6. **Clean water and sanitation:** Libraries and information centers need to help disseminate information related to sanitation by raising awareness among the public, conducting campaigns and organizing seminars. Similarly, libraries need to support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.
7. **Affordable and clean energy:** Libraries and information centers should provide people with access to information and communication technologies, study guides, and classes on using mobile phones, and ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services through library campaigns.
8. **Decent work and Economic Growth:** Libraries need to provide education and training to make information accessible to both young and older person in an affordable manner. At the same time, it is necessary to ensure that people get jobs through public libraries. Libraries and information centers need to provide affordable internet facilities in underdeveloped areas.
9. **Industry, innovation and infrastructure:** Libraries and information centers work to make information technology accessible and affordable in underdeveloped areas. This can be achieved by organizing lively debates, quizzes and spelling competitions through smart phones, laptops and video conferencing projects.
10. **Reduce inequality:** Libraries and information centers should promote the safe and reliable mobility of citizens through a credible migration policy. Library services should provide information and support on child care, housing, health, education, citizenship, residency, subsidized housing, government benefits, including legal means.
11. **Sustainable Cities and Communities:** Libraries should provide and preserve our country's cultural and natural heritage for future generations.
12. **Responsible Production and Consumption:** Libraries should provide and encourage institutions, industries, and companies to adopt sustainable practices in production and consumption of products.
13. **Climate Action:** Libraries should organize programs to provide climate information awareness and other relevant information. This should include resources on climate change and action.
14. **Life in Water:** Libraries and information centers should provide scientific information on conservation and preservation techniques that can sustainably utilize oceans, seas, and marine resources to achieve sustainable development.

15. Terrestrial life: Libraries can protect the land from threats posed by humans and nature.

Libraries should work to educate people on forest, land and ecosystem management skills.

16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: In accordance with national laws and international agreements, libraries provide free or low-cost Internet access to the community and work to provide public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms.

17. Partnerships for Purpose: Whether it is a school, college, university, public or special library, it is essential to provide knowledge and experience to the underprivileged. Librarians and libraries work to increase understanding and communication through awareness campaign strategies.

➤ **Conclusion :**

Libraries are essential and important tools in society and play a very important role and contribute significantly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Libraries and information centers work to create awareness among the people on issues such as health, education, environmental problems, climate change, etc. Libraries are seen as working to overcome the challenges of the future.

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The Transformative Role of Libraries for Inclusive Development in India's Journey to Viksit Bharat @2047

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Abstract: Capacity building, digital literacy, and equitable access to information are foundational to India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047. Libraries and information centers are uniquely positioned to advance these objectives by serving as hubs for learning, inclusion, and innovation. This review synthesizes recent literature on the role of libraries in bridging the digital divide, fostering information literacy, promoting inclusive access for differently-abled populations, and supporting community development. It highlights achievements, identifies challenges such as infrastructure gaps, lack of awareness, and uneven policy implementation, and proposes future directions for enhancing libraries' role in inclusive development. By situating libraries within broader national frameworks such as *Digital India*, the *National Education Policy (2020)*, and the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*, the article underscores the transformative potential of libraries to contribute to equitable, knowledge-driven growth.

Keywords: Libraries, Digital Literacy, Capacity Building, Information Access, Inclusive Development, India, Viksit Bharat 2047

1. Introduction

The Government of India's vision of *Viksit Bharat @2047* outlines a developmental trajectory emphasizing equity, inclusion, and knowledge-driven growth. In this context, capacity building and digital literacy are essential prerequisites for citizens to fully participate in the emerging knowledge economy. Information access—especially through libraries—plays a central role in this transformation by enabling lifelong learning, reducing inequalities, and fostering informed citizenship (Chakrabarty & Dutta, 2014). Libraries have long been regarded as community anchors for knowledge dissemination. In the digital age, they are evolving into dynamic centers that provide not only print collections but also ICT resources, training programs, and inclusive services for marginalized and differently-abled populations (Yadav & Singh, 2024). This review article examines the existing scholarship on capacity building, digital literacy, and inclusive access through libraries in India, focusing on achievements, challenges, and directions for future action.

2. Objectives

The primary objectives of this review article are:

1. To examine the role of libraries in advancing capacity building and digital literacy in India.
2. To analyse how libraries contribute to equitable information access for marginalized and differently-abled communities.

3. To identify key challenges—including infrastructure, awareness, staff training, and policy constraints—affecting libraries' impact on inclusive development.
4. To review successful case studies and models that demonstrate the transformative potential of libraries.
5. To propose future directions and strategies for strengthening libraries within national development initiatives such as *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

3. Conceptual Framework

3.1 Capacity Building

Capacity building involves enhancing individuals' skills, competencies, and knowledge to enable their effective participation in social, economic, and civic life. In libraries, this includes skill development workshops, e-governance training, and job readiness programs (Nanjunda, 2017).

3.2 Digital Literacy

Digital literacy extends beyond basic computer skills to include navigating online platforms, evaluating digital information, ensuring online safety, and using ICT tools for education and work (Chakrabarty & Dutta, 2014).

3.3 Information Access for Inclusive Development

Inclusive information access ensures equitable opportunities for all, including marginalized groups, women, rural populations, and differently-abled individuals. Libraries achieve this by offering assistive technologies, regional language content, and free or low-cost ICT services (Salaudhin, 2022; Yadav & Singh, 2024).

4. Review of Literature

4.1 Public Libraries and the Digital Divide

Public libraries play a crucial role in bridging the digital divide by providing free access to computers, internet, and digital resources. A study on Kerala State Central Library found that while ICT and internet services were available, 47% of users were unaware of them, highlighting the importance of awareness programs (K.G. & P, 2023). Similarly, research in South Karnataka revealed that libraries contribute to social inclusion but require better staff training and outreach to maximize impact (Nanjunda, 2017).

4.2 Digital Literacy Initiatives

Libraries have increasingly integrated digital literacy training into their services. Workshops on online safety, government portals, and digital tools empower citizens to engage with e-governance and the digital economy (Chakrabarty & Dutta, 2014). Initiatives like *Digital India* and the *National Digital Library of India (NDLI)* have expanded access to e-resources, but localized library-based interventions remain vital for rural and underserved populations.

4.3 Libraries and Differently-Abled Users

Inclusive development requires attention to differently-abled populations. A study at Dr. Shakuntala Misra Rehabilitation University in Lucknow found that while provisions for assistive resources existed, gaps remained in staff training and technological enhancement (Salaudhin, 2022). Similarly, a survey across IIT libraries indicated satisfaction with some assistive technologies but emphasized the need for better outreach and training (Yadav & Singh, 2024).

4.4 Emerging Technologies in Libraries

Technological innovations such as AI-driven cataloging, chatbots, and virtual reality learning environments hold potential to enhance library services (K.G. & P, 2023). However, adoption is uneven due to infrastructural limitations, policy gaps, and financial constraints. Case examples like the multimodal learning hub at Tinsukia District Library, Assam, demonstrate how emerging technologies can be localized to empower communities (Times of India, 2024).

4. Synthesis and Discussion

The reviewed literature highlights that libraries are no longer passive repositories of books but dynamic institutions central to addressing digital divides, fostering digital literacy, and enabling inclusive development in India. Despite this potential, persistent systemic challenges—such as awareness gaps, infrastructure deficiencies, staff training needs, and policy or funding shortfalls—continue to limit their impact. At the same time, successful models across the country demonstrate the transformative power of libraries when adequately resourced and supported.

4.1 Awareness and Outreach Gaps

Mere provision of ICT services does not guarantee utilization. For example, nearly half of surveyed users in the Kerala State Central Library were unaware of available ICT facilities (K.G. & P., 2023). Such low awareness is particularly acute in rural and semi-urban areas, where communities often perceive libraries as traditional book-based institutions. To overcome this, libraries must engage in proactive outreach through school partnerships, community groups, and targeted awareness campaigns (Nanjunda, 2017). Without such strategies, marginalized groups risk exclusion from digital opportunities.

4.2 Infrastructure Limitations

Infrastructure gaps remain a critical barrier. Rural libraries often lack reliable internet, modern computers, or assistive devices, limiting their usability (Salauddin, 2022). In contrast, urban institutions—especially in metropolitan centers—are better equipped, creating rural–urban disparities (Yadav & Singh, 2024). Investment through *Digital India* and state-level schemes, combined with public–private partnerships, is essential to bridge these divides.

4.3 Staff Training Needs

The role of librarians has shifted from custodians of books to facilitators and “digital navigators” (IFLA, 2019). However, studies show that staff training is inconsistent; even where assistive technologies exist, lack of skilled staff reduces their effectiveness (Yadav & Singh, 2024). Continuous professional development in both technical and pedagogical skills is therefore vital to enhance service delivery.

4.4 Policy and Funding Constraints

Policies such as *Digital India*, NEP 2020, and the National Mission on Libraries recognize the developmental role of libraries, but implementation and funding remain weak. Short-term grants often undermine continuity, while uneven state-level coordination restricts scalability (Nanjunda, 2017; IFLA, 2021). Sustainable budgetary allocation and integration of libraries into national development strategies are critical.

4.5 Successful Models and Integrated Approach

Despite these limitations, cases like Kerala’s ICT-enabled libraries, assistive services in IITs, and the multimodal learning hub in Assam’s Tinsukia District Library (Times of India,

2024) demonstrate scalable, community-oriented innovations. These examples affirm the transformative capacity of libraries when resources, outreach, and policy converge.

6. Future Directions

6.1 Capacity Building Programs

Libraries must prioritize skill development workshops that focus on digital tools, e-governance platforms, and employability skills. Such programs will empower citizens to participate meaningfully in the knowledge economy and bridge digital competency gaps (Nanjunda, 2017).

6.2 Strengthening Infrastructure

Equitable provision of ICT facilities—including computers, broadband connectivity, and assistive technologies—is essential. Without robust infrastructure, especially in rural libraries, the digital divide will persist (Salaudhin, 2022).

6.3 Policy Integration

Library-led initiatives should be embedded into national programs such as *Digital India*, *Skill India*, and the *National Education Policy (2020)*. Policy integration ensures sustainability and alignment with broader developmental goals (Chakrabarty & Dutta, 2014).

6.4 Inclusive Services

Scaling inclusive services through Braille collections, audiobooks, and universal design approaches will ensure access for differently-abled communities. This directly contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4 and 10) focused on equitable education and reducing inequalities (Yadav & Singh, 2024).

6.5 Awareness and Community Engagement

National and local campaigns must raise awareness about the digital and informational services libraries provide. Research has shown that lack of awareness is a major barrier to service utilization (K.G. & P., 2023).

6.6 Research and Monitoring

Finally, establishing systematic mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating library programs will help measure their impact on digital literacy and inclusive development. Evidence-based assessment can guide future policy and resource allocation (IFLA, 2021).

7. Conclusion

Libraries are uniquely positioned to advance India's vision of inclusive and knowledge-driven development by 2047. By promoting capacity building, digital literacy, and equitable access to information, libraries empower citizens, reduce social and economic inequalities, and foster informed participation in democratic processes. Despite persistent challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, limited awareness, and uneven policy implementation, successful models from Kerala, IIT libraries, and Assam demonstrate libraries' transformative potential. Moving forward, sustained investment in ICT infrastructure, professional training, inclusive services, and integration into national policies will be essential. Strengthening libraries as hubs of lifelong learning and digital empowerment will not only bridge existing divides but also serve as a cornerstone of India's roadmap to becoming a developed nation under the vision of *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

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The Role of Libraries in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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Abstract

Libraries - public, academic, school, and special - are repositories of knowledge and hubs of community engagement. Beyond lending books, modern libraries provide digital access, lifelong learning, research support, and community programmes that directly and indirectly advance the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This paper examines how libraries contribute to selected SDGs (especially SDG 4: Quality Education; SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities; SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG 13: Climate Action; and SDG 17: Partnerships), maps typical library activities onto impact areas (illustrated in Figure 1), and presents an integrated model showing connections between libraries and key SDGs (Figure 2). The paper draws on theoretical perspectives, programmatic examples, and policy implications to recommend strategic actions that maximize libraries' role in achieving the SDGs.

Keywords

Libraries, Sustainable Development Goals, SDG 4, SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG 13, SDG 17, digital inclusion, lifelong learning

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes education, equality, and partnerships as foundational pillars for global progress. Libraries-historically guardians of written culture -have evolved into dynamic public infrastructures that enable access to information, foster learning across the lifespan, and stimulate civic participation. Their ubiquitous presence, trust within communities, and adaptability make them uniquely placed to support SDG implementation at local, national, and global levels.

This research paper explores the mechanisms through which libraries contribute to achieving SDGs, examines illustrative impact evidence, and offers policy and practice recommendations to strengthen libraries as engines for sustainable development. The analysis emphasizes five SDGs where libraries' influence is strongest but recognizes their cross-cutting potential across the entire SDG framework.

Methodology

This paper uses a mixed-methods conceptual approach: synthesis of scholarly and practitioner literature, mapping of library functions to SDG targets, and illustrative quantitative visualization. The bar chart in Figure 1 presents an illustrative "impact score" across common library activities (information access, lifelong learning programmes, digital inclusion, research and open access, community services, environmental programmes). These scores are conceptual — intended to guide discussion rather than serve as empirical measurements. Figure 2 presents a schematic diagram linking libraries to selected SDGs to visualize pathways of influence.

Libraries and SDG 4: Quality Education

SDG 4 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities. Libraries directly support this goal in several ways:

1. **Formal learning support:** School and academic libraries provide curricular resources, study spaces, and teacher-librarian collaboration that enhance student learning outcomes.
2. **Lifelong learning:** Public libraries offer adult education, literacy programmes, vocational training, and workshops that enable continuing skill development.
3. **Early literacy and child development:** Storytimes and early literacy initiatives prepare children for successful schooling and cognitive development.
4. **Open educational resources (OER) and research support:** Libraries curate, host, and promote access to OER and open access research, increasing educational materials availability.

By offering equitable access to learning resources and instructional programming, libraries reduce educational barriers and promote lifelong learning aligned with SDG 4 targets.

Libraries and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

SDG 10 focuses on reducing inequality within and among countries. Libraries mitigate inequalities by:

1. **Universal access to information:** Free services and resources lower economic barriers for marginalized populations.
2. **Digital inclusion:** Public internet access, device lending (e.g., laptops, hotspots), and digital literacy training help narrow the digital divide.
3. **Language and disability services:** Multilingual collections, accessible formats (large print, audio, Braille), and assistive technologies make information accessible to diverse communities.
4. **Targeted outreach:** Mobile libraries, community partnerships, and targeted programming reach underserved groups (rural residents, refugees, seniors).

These actions directly align with SDG 10's emphasis on social, economic, and political inclusion.

Libraries and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG 11 highlights the need for inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable human settlements. Libraries contribute to sustainable communities by:

1. **Civic spaces:** Libraries are community anchors, providing safe, inclusive public spaces for meetings, cultural events, and civic dialogue.
2. **Local knowledge hubs:** By preserving local history and making municipal information available, libraries enhance social cohesion and urban memory.
3. **Disaster preparedness:** Some libraries serve as information centers during emergencies, offering critical services and continuity of access.
4. **Cultural programming and placemaking:** Libraries host arts, heritage, and public science events that strengthen community ties and quality of life.

Through these functions, libraries help cities become more socially resilient and culturally vibrant.

Libraries and SDG 13: Climate Action

Although less obvious, libraries can play meaningful roles in climate action:

1. **Education and awareness:** Libraries curate climate science materials, run public lectures, and host exhibitions that increase awareness and promote sustainable behaviors.
2. **Sustainable operations:** Many libraries adopt energy-efficient buildings, green procurement, and waste reduction practices that lower institutional carbon footprints.
3. **Community mobilization:** Libraries can convene stakeholders, support citizen science projects, and enable local adaptation planning by making resources and meeting spaces available.

Libraries thus act as knowledge conduits and local platforms for climate resilience and behavioral change.

Libraries and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

SDG 17 underscores the necessity of integrated partnerships. Libraries often act as nodes in multisector collaborations:

1. **Cross-sector partnerships:** Libraries partner with government agencies, NGOs, schools, universities, and private firms to deliver services and extend their reach.
2. **Information sharing:** Libraries facilitate knowledge exchange, data curation, and dissemination that supports evidence-based policymaking.
3. **International networks:** National and international library associations promote best practices, resource sharing, and capacity building that amplify local efforts.

Partnerships multiply the impact of library initiatives and are essential to scaling contributions to the SDGs.

Figure 1: Library Activities and Their Illustrative Contribution

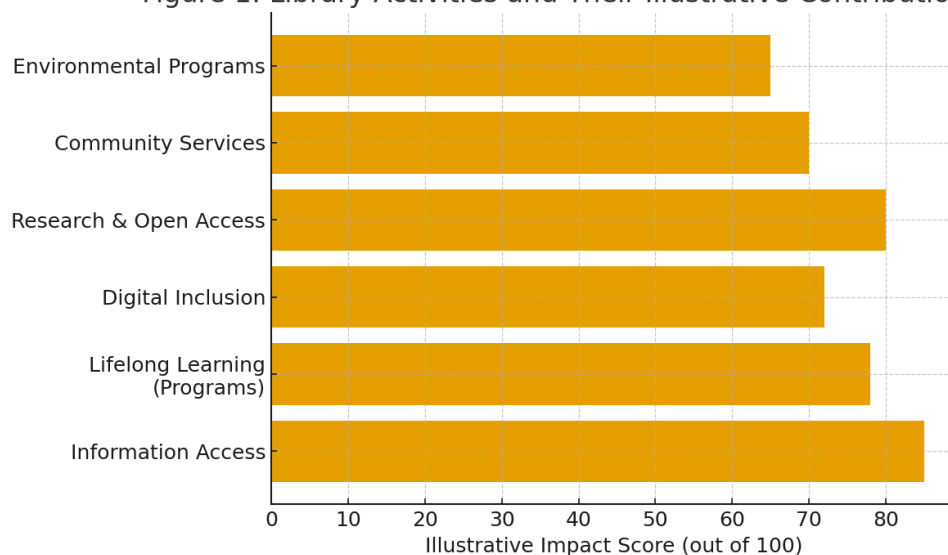


Figure 1 (bar chart) presents an illustrative mapping of common library activities to an "impact score" for SDG-related contribution. Information access and research support typically score high because they are core library functions with direct relevance to multiple SDGs. Lifelong learning and digital inclusion also score strongly because of their proven role in education and

equality. Environmental programmes have growing but comparatively lower institutional emphasis — an opportunity area for strategic development.

Figure 2: How Libraries Connect to Key SDGs

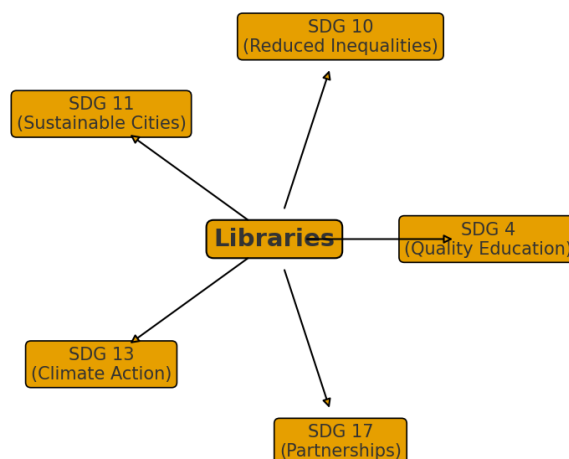


Figure 2 (radial diagram) places “Libraries” at the center and shows direct connections to key SDGs: Quality Education (SDG 4), Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10), Sustainable Cities (SDG 11), Climate Action (SDG 13), and Partnerships (SDG 17). The schematic emphasizes that libraries operate through multiple pathways—education, inclusion, civic engagement, sustainability practices, and partnerships—creating multiplier effects across the SDG agenda.

Discussion

Libraries’ contributions to sustainable development can be understood as both **direct** (e.g., literacy programmes improving education outcomes) and **indirect** (e.g., civic engagement enhancing social cohesion leading to more resilient communities). Strengths include trusted community presence, professional expertise (librarianship), and flexibility to adapt services. Limitations often stem from constrained funding, uneven access to digital infrastructure, workforce shortages, and limited visibility in national SDG strategies.

To optimize impact, libraries need targeted investment, digital infrastructure, capacity-building for staff (especially on SDG-related programming), and formal integration into national development plans. Measuring impacts remains a challenge; standard metrics and data collection systems are necessary to show how library services translate into SDG outcomes (for example, tracking program participants’ education or employment outcomes, digital skills improvements, or community resilience indicators).

Policy and Practice Recommendations

1. **Integrate libraries into SDG planning:** National and local governments should explicitly include libraries in SDG implementation frameworks and funding mechanisms.

2. **Invest in digital inclusion:** Expand broadband access, device lending schemes, and digital skills training to ensure libraries reduce, not reinforce, inequalities.
3. **Measure outcomes:** Develop standard indicators to capture libraries' contributions to SDG targets (e.g., number of learners upskilled, users accessing government services via libraries).
4. **Support green libraries:** Fund energy-efficient building upgrades, green operations, and climate literacy programming that position libraries as sustainability exemplars.
5. **Foster partnerships:** Encourage collaborations with education providers, NGOs, and local governments to scale programmes and share resources.
6. **Capacity building:** Offer professional development for library staff on community development, data literacy, and programme evaluation linked to SDG goals.

Limitations and Areas for Further Research

This paper uses conceptual mapping and illustrative visualizations rather than empirical impact evaluation. Future research should employ longitudinal and comparative studies to quantify libraries' contributions to specific SDG indicators across contexts. Case studies documenting successful library–government collaborations and cost-benefit analyses of library programmes would strengthen the evidence base.

Conclusion

Libraries are indispensable civic infrastructures for achieving sustainable development. Their roles in education, inclusion, community resilience, climate awareness, and partnership-building make them natural allies in the SDG agenda. Realizing this potential requires policy recognition, investment, reliable data on outcomes, and sustained collaboration across sectors. With strategic support, libraries can move from being supportive actors to central agents in local and national SDG implementation.

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Digital India and Inclusive Growth

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Abstract

Digital India launched in 2015 is a flagship programme of the Government of India designed to transform the nation into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. This paper examines the role of Digital India in promoting inclusive growth by bridging the digital divide fostering financial inclusion enabling e-governance, expanding access to education and healthcare and empowering rural communities. Through initiatives such as the JAM trinity (Jan Dhan–Aadhaar–Mobile), BharatNet, SWAYAM, and digital payment systems, the programme seeks to ensure that the benefits of technology reach all sections of society particularly marginalized and rural populations. While Digital India has created significant opportunities for transparency, efficiency and citizen participation, challenges remain in infrastructure gaps, affordability, digital literacy, and cybersecurity. The study concludes that Digital India has strong potential to accelerate inclusive and sustainable development, provided that policy measures focus on equitable access, digital skills, and robust governance frameworks.

Keywords

Digital India; Inclusive Growth; E-Governance; Financial Inclusion; Digital Literacy; Rural Development ICT Digital Empowerment

Introduction

Inclusive growth refers to a development process that is equitable, broad-based, and ensures that the benefits of economic progress are accessible to all sections of society particularly marginalized groups. In the context of a developing economy like India, technology has emerged as a critical enabler for bridging socio-economic divides. Recognizing this potential, the Government of India launched the Digital India programmes in 2015 with the vision of transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

Digital India seeks to leverage Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to provide universal access to public services, strengthen governance, promote financial inclusion, and create new opportunities for education, healthcare, and entrepreneurship. The programme is built on three core pillars: (1) Digital infrastructure as a utility to every citizen, (2) Governance and services on demand, and (3) Digital empowerment of citizens. By expanding digital infrastructure such as BharatNet, enabling financial tools like the JAM trinity (Jan Dhan–Aadhaar–Mobile), promoting e-governance platforms, and fostering digital literacy programmes

like PMGDISHA Digital India has the potential to bring millions into the mainstream economy. It plays a significant role in reducing barriers of geography, income, and social exclusion.

At the same time, challenges such as inadequate infrastructure in rural areas, affordability of digital devices, gaps in digital literacy, and cybersecurity risks remain critical concerns. Addressing these barriers is essential for ensuring that digital transformation contributes not only to economic growth but also to inclusive and sustainable development.

This paper explores the vision, achievements, opportunities, and challenges of Digital India in the context of inclusive growth, while also suggesting policy recommendations for strengthening its impact.

Objectives of the Study

- To analyze the vision and core components of the Digital India programme.
- To examine the relationship between Digital India initiatives and inclusive growth in India.
- To evaluate the impact of digital platforms on financial inclusion, education, healthcare, and rural development.

Digital India: Vision and Pillars

The Digital India programme, launched by the Government of India in July 2015, envisions transforming the country into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Its vision is centered on harnessing digital technologies to bridge the digital divide, empower citizens, and ensure inclusive growth.

The programme is built on three key vision areas, which form the core pillars of Digital India:

1. Digital Infrastructure as a Core Utility to Every Citizen

- High-speed internet as a basic right through projects like BharatNet.
- Unique Digital Identity (Aadhaar) for authentication and service delivery.
- Mobile connectivity and cloud storage (DigiLocker) to ensure access.
- Safe and secure digital space for individuals and businesses.

2. Governance and Services on Demand

- Seamless integration of services across government departments.
- Online access to services such as tax filing, land records, e-signatures, and grievance redressal.
- Real-time availability of government services through mobile platforms (UMANG).
- Digital platforms for business facilitation and transparency in administration.

Digital India and Inclusive Growth

1. Financial Inclusion

- Digital payment platforms (UPI, BHIM, RuPay) have enabled affordable and accessible transactions.
- Jan Dhan–Aadhaar–Mobile (JAM) trinity has facilitated direct benefit transfers (DBTs), reducing leakages.

2. Rural and Agricultural Development

- eNAM connects farmers to national markets.
- Mobile apps provide weather forecasts, crop advisories, and credit access.

Challenges to Inclusive Growth via Digital India

- **Digital Divide** – urban-rural gaps in internet penetration and digital literacy.
- **Infrastructure Gaps** – unreliable electricity and connectivity in remote regions.
- **Cybersecurity Risks** – data breaches, identity theft, and misuse of personal data.
- **Skill Deficits** – lack of digital literacy and ICT skills among marginalized populations.
- **Affordability Issues** – high cost of devices and data plans for low-income groups.

Challenges to Inclusive Growth via Digital India

1. Digital Divide

One of the foremost challenges to inclusive growth under the Digital India programme is the digital divide—the gap between those who have access to digital technologies and those who do not. This divide exists across multiple dimensions:

- **Urban–Rural Gap:** Internet penetration and smartphone usage remain significantly higher in urban areas compared to rural regions. While cities have benefitted from high-speed broadband and mobile connectivity, many villages still struggle with poor or no access.
- **Socio-Economic Inequalities:** Low-income households face barriers in affording smartphones, computers, and data plans. This limits their ability to participate in digital services such as online banking, e-learning, or telemedicine.
- **Gender Divide:** Women, especially in rural areas, often have lower access to digital devices and the internet due to cultural, social, and economic restrictions. This widens the gender gap in financial inclusion and digital literacy.

Impact of the Digital Divide on Inclusive Growth

- Limits access to government services and welfare schemes.
- Excludes marginalized groups from digital financial systems (UPI, DBT, online banking).

- Reduces opportunities for online education, healthcare, and skill development.
- Reinforces existing inequalities, leaving vulnerable groups further behind

2. Infrastructure Gaps – Unreliable Electricity and Connectivity in Remote Regions

The success of Digital India largely depends on strong and reliable digital infrastructure. However, **infrastructure gaps** continue to be a significant barrier to inclusive growth, especially in rural and remote areas.

- **Unreliable Electricity Supply**

- Many villages and tribal regions still face frequent power outages or lack 24/7 electricity.
- Digital devices, mobile towers, and internet service providers cannot function effectively without stable power supply.
- This discourages people in rural areas from adopting digital platforms, as services often remain inaccessible.

- **Poor Connectivity in Remote Areas**

- Broadband penetration is limited in hilly, desert, and tribal regions, where laying optical fiber networks is difficult and costly.
- Mobile network coverage is often weak or absent, making internet access unreliable.
- While **BharatNet** aims to provide broadband to every Gram Panchayat, progress has been uneven across states.

Affordability Issues – High Cost of Devices and Data Plans for Low-Income Groups

While the Digital India Programme has created multiple digital platforms for governance, finance, and education, their adoption is often limited by affordability constraints, especially among low-income and rural households. The cost of accessing and maintaining digital connectivity remains a significant barrier to inclusive growth.

High Cost of Devices

- Smartphones, laptops, and tablets are essential to access digital services, but they remain unaffordable for many families in rural and marginalized communities.
- Cheaper alternatives often come with poor performance, limited memory, and shorter lifespans, making them less effective for long-term use.

- **Expensive Data Plans**

- Although India has some of the lowest mobile data costs globally, even modest monthly data charges are a burden for families living below the poverty line.
- Regular recharges for internet connectivity discourage continuous use of online platforms.

- **Maintenance and Replacement Costs**

- Devices require periodic maintenance, software updates, and sometimes replacement—costs that are difficult for low-income groups to bear.
- Many users drop out of digital platforms when devices break down or become outdated.

Impact of Cybersecurity Risks on Inclusive Growth

Cybersecurity risks pose a serious threat to the success of Digital India as a driver of inclusive growth. While digital platforms provide access to governance, finance, and welfare services, weak security frameworks and rising cybercrimes undermine citizen trust and participation.

1. Erosion of Public Trust

- Citizens lose confidence in digital systems if personal data is leaked or misused.
- Fear of fraud discourages people—especially first-time users—from adopting digital banking and e-governance services.

2. Financial Exclusion

- Cases of identity theft and online fraud directly impact low-income groups, who cannot afford financial losses.
- Vulnerable populations often avoid using digital wallets, UPI, or online banking due to fear of scams, leading to slower financial inclusion.

3. Inequality in Digital Participation

- Educated and urban citizens with better cyber awareness are more confident online, while rural and marginalized groups remain excluded due to fear and lack of protection.
- This widens the **digital divide**, limiting the inclusive potential of Digital India.

Impact of Infrastructure Gaps on Inclusive Growth

The success of Digital India heavily depends on reliable infrastructure such as electricity, internet connectivity, and last-mile delivery systems. However, persistent infrastructure gaps,

especially in rural and remote regions, limit the effectiveness of digital initiatives and slow down inclusive growth.

1. Limited Access to Digital Services

- Poor connectivity in remote areas restricts access to e-governance, telemedicine, and online education.
- Citizens in underserved regions remain excluded from the benefits of government schemes delivered through digital platforms.

2. Unequal Opportunities for Education and Skills

- Students in rural areas face disruptions in e-learning due to unreliable internet and lack of devices.
- This widens the urban–rural education gap, reinforcing existing inequalities instead of bridging them.

3. Hindrance to Entrepreneurship

Conclusion: Without addressing **electricity shortages and poor internet connectivity**, the promise of Digital India cannot fully reach remote populations. Strengthening infrastructure through renewable energy solutions, public–private partnerships, and accelerated rollout of Bharat Net is essential for achieving **inclusive and balanced digital growth**.

Conclusion

The Digital India Programme represents a transformative vision for leveraging technology to foster economic development, social empowerment, and inclusive growth. By providing digital infrastructure, enabling e-governance, promoting financial inclusion, expanding access to education and healthcare, and empowering marginalized communities, Digital India has created unprecedented opportunities for bridging socio-economic divides.

However, achieving true inclusive growth requires more than technological deployment. Challenges such as the digital divide, infrastructure gaps, skill deficits, affordability issues, and cybersecurity risks limit the reach and effectiveness of digital initiatives. These barriers particularly affect rural populations, women, differently-abled persons, and low-income groups, highlighting the need for targeted policies and interventions.

Policy recommendations such as strengthening digital infrastructure, expanding affordable access, promoting digital literacy, ensuring robust cybersecurity, and supporting rural entrepreneurship are critical to overcoming these challenges. By addressing these gaps, Digital India can ensure that its benefits are equitably distributed, empowering every citizen to participate fully in the digital economy.

In conclusion, Digital India has immense potential to accelerate inclusive and sustainable development, but its success depends on comprehensive planning, inclusive policies, citizen awareness, and continuous monitoring. With coordinated efforts from the government, private sector, and civil society, Digital India can truly become a catalyst for equitable growth, transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

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Impact of Internet and Web Technologies on Usage of Libraries

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Abstract

The emergence of the internet and web technologies has fundamentally transformed the traditional role of libraries. Once regarded as physical repositories of books, libraries are now evolving into hybrid and digital knowledge hubs offering both physical and virtual services. This paper critically examines the impact of internet and web technologies on library usage, focusing on accessibility, user behavior, resource management, and the future of library services. It highlights the challenges faced by libraries, such as digital divide, copyright issues, and financial constraints, while also exploring opportunities in digitization, open access, and user-centered services. Using both qualitative and quantitative approaches, the study analyzes how internet adoption has reshaped information-seeking behavior, particularly among students, researchers, and the general public. The paper concludes that libraries must continuously innovate to remain relevant in the information age by integrating internet-based services, fostering digital literacy, and promoting inclusive access.

Keywords: Libraries, Internet, Web Technologies, Digital Resources, User Behavior, Information Access

1. Introduction

Libraries have traditionally served as the primary centers for information access, preservation, and dissemination. However, the late 20th century witnessed a technological revolution that dramatically reshaped information ecosystems-the advent of the internet and web technologies. With millions of resources available online, user expectations have shifted from physical access to instant, remote, and digital availability.

Today's libraries face a dual challenge: retaining their relevance as physical spaces while adapting to digital trends. Users increasingly rely on Google Scholar, e-books, open access repositories, and online journals, reducing footfalls in physical libraries. At the same time, demand for digital services like e-resources, online catalogues, and remote reference services has grown rapidly.

This paper explores how internet and web technologies have influenced library usage, analyzing both positive and negative implications. It also examines the future of libraries in the digital era.

2. Evolution of Internet and Web Technologies in Libraries

2.1 Pre-Internet Libraries

Before the 1990s, libraries mainly relied on physical collections and card catalogues. Information retrieval was manual and time-consuming.

2.2 The Internet Era (1990s onwards)

- **Online Public Access Catalogues (OPACs):** Replaced traditional card catalogues.
- **Digital Databases:** Subscription-based access to journals and books.
- **Email & Web-based Reference:** Enabled virtual assistance.

2.3 Web 2.0 and Interactive Services

- **Blogs, Wikis, and Forums:** Facilitated user-generated content and collaboration.
- **Social Media Libraries:** Promoted outreach and engagement.
- **Institutional Repositories:** Allowed open access to scholarly output.

2.4 Current Trends

- **Artificial Intelligence:** Personalized recommendations.
- **Cloud Libraries:** Flexible storage and access.
- **Mobile Applications:** On-the-go library access.

3. Impact of Internet and Web Technologies on Library Usage

3.1 Positive Impacts

1. **Enhanced Accessibility:** Users can access e-resources 24/7 from any location.
2. **Wider Reach:** Libraries serve remote and marginalized users.
3. **Time Efficiency:** Quick retrieval through search engines and databases.
4. **Cost-Effectiveness:** Reduced need for physical storage of materials.
5. **Collaboration:** Networking of libraries enables resource sharing.

3.2 Negative Impacts

1. **Decline in Physical Visits:** Reduced usage of traditional print materials.
2. **Information Overload:** Users often face difficulty evaluating authenticity.
3. **Digital Divide:** Not all users have equal access to high-speed internet.
4. **Copyright and Licensing Issues:** Restrictions limit usage of digital resources.
5. **Financial Burden:** Subscription costs for digital resources are high.

4. Changing User Behavior

The availability of digital resources has transformed how users interact with libraries.

Table 1: Shift in Library Usage Patterns

Aspect	Traditional Libraries	Internet-Enabled Libraries
Access Time	Limited to working hours	24/7 remote access
Resource Type	Books, journals, newspapers	E-books, databases, e-journals
Search Method	Manual catalogue	Keyword search, metadata
Interaction with Librarian	Face-to-face	Online chat, email
Learning Style	Print-based, linear	Multimedia, interactive

5. Challenges Faced by Libraries

1. **Digital Divide:** Urban institutions benefit more than rural ones.
2. **Financial Constraints:** Subscription charges for databases like Scopus and Web of Science.
3. **Copyright and Licensing Issues:** Limited downloading and sharing rights.
4. **Need for Digital Literacy:** Users and staff require ICT skills.
5. **Preservation Issues:** Long-term storage of digital content is uncertain

6. Opportunities for Libraries in the Digital Era

1. **Digitization of Rare Collections:** Enhances global access.
2. **Open Access Movement:** Reduces cost barriers.
3. **Collaborative Consortia (e.g., INFLIBNET in India):** Enables resource sharing.
4. **Personalized Services:** AI-driven recommendations.
5. **Community Engagement:** Virtual workshops and webinars.

7. Future of Libraries in the Internet Age

Libraries must transform into learning commons-spaces that integrate physical and digital resources, foster collaboration, and promote lifelong learning. The future will be shaped by:

- Artificial intelligence for personalized services.
- Blockchain for secure digital rights management.
- Virtual and augmented reality for immersive learning.
- Stronger emphasis on digital literacy.

8. Conclusion

The internet and web technologies have revolutionized library usage by enhancing access, efficiency, and collaboration. However, they have also introduced challenges such as the digital divide, rising costs, and copyright issues. While physical libraries may see reduced usage, their role as community and learning spaces remains vital. The future lies in embracing hybrid and smart library models that balance physical collections with innovative digital services. Libraries must not only provide access but also educate users to navigate the digital information landscape effectively.

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AI-Driven Growth: Transforming Professional Development for LIS Educators and Curriculum

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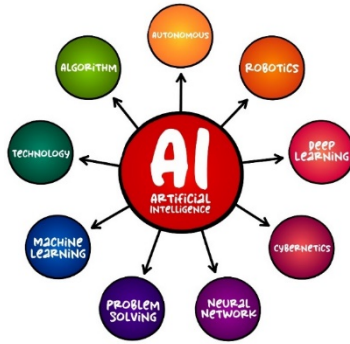
Abstract

This paper explores the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the field of Library and Information Science (LIS) and examines the critical need for an overhaul of professional development and educational curricula. It argues that the integration of AI is not merely a technological update but a fundamental shift requiring LIS professionals to transition from traditional information custodians to AI-literate navigators. The paper synthesizes current research on AI's role in information services, identifies the challenges faced by LIS educators, and proposes a comprehensive framework for professional development and curriculum reform. The proposed framework emphasizes foundational AI knowledge, practical application, ethical considerations, and interdisciplinary collaboration to prepare educators and, by extension, future LIS professionals for an AI-integrated information landscape.

Keywords: AI, Library and Information Science, professional development, curriculum, information literacy, LIS education.

1. Introduction

The rapid evolution of Artificial Intelligence necessitates a paradigm shift in professional development for Library and Information Science educators, enabling them to effectively integrate AI into curriculum design and pedagogical practices (Brandão et al., 2024). This integration is crucial not only for enhancing LIS services but also for preparing future information professionals to navigate an increasingly AI-enhanced professional landscape (Chandrashekara & Mulimani, 2024) (Chukhlomin, 2024). This paper explores how AI-driven growth can transform professional development for LIS educators and curriculum, examining both the opportunities and challenges presented by this technological shift (Boateng, 2025). Specifically, it delves into the emergent need for structured AI literacy programs to bridge the gap between AI adoption and practical competency within higher education, particularly within LIS institutions (Zary, 2025). This includes not only a foundational understanding of AI concepts but also a critical examination of its societal and ethical implications, recognizing AI's role in perpetuating existing biases and power structures (Leander & Burriss, 2020). A robust framework for AI literacy is therefore imperative, moving beyond mere technical proficiency to encompass a comprehensive understanding of AI's broader socio-technical implications and practical applications (Tadimalla & Maher, 2024). Such a framework should encompass awareness, skill development, and practical application,



fostering a comprehensive understanding that empowers educators to leverage AI's potential while mitigating its risks (Hazari, 2024).

Background: The field of LIS has a history of adapting to technological changes, from the card catalog to the digital library. AI represents the latest and perhaps most profound of these changes, automating routine tasks and creating new possibilities for service delivery (Chandrashekara & Mulimani, 2024).

2. Literature Review

A review of recent academic literature highlights a clear consensus on the growing influence of AI in LIS and the urgent need for a response from the education sector.

AI is already enhancing various aspects of LIS services. Chandrashekara and Mulimani (2024) note that AI-driven tools are improving cataloging, information retrieval, and user services. They highlight the use of recommendation systems to personalize user experiences and chatbots to provide 24/7 reference assistance. Similarly, the paper by Oyetola, Oladokun, and Dogara (2024) discusses the use of AI for tasks such as automated grading, intelligent tutoring systems, and personalized learning.

Pawar, R. R., Kumbhar, S. S., & Adav, R. P. (2024) This paper evaluates ICT competencies of LIS professionals in D.Y. Patil Pratishthan's colleges through a questionnaire survey of 25 respondents. It finds high internet use, good search and library software skills, and awareness of Web 2.0 tools, but highlights gaps in advanced areas like cloud computing and web design. Major challenges include inadequate infrastructure, limited training, and lack of management support. The study recommends targeted training and better institutional support to strengthen digital library services.

Research reveals a mixed but generally positive perception among LIS educators toward AI, coupled with a significant lack of formal training. A study by Oyetola et al. (2024) on Nigerian library schools found that while many educators are aware of and have positive attitudes towards AI, there is a "considerable gap in formal training and professional development in this area." The study also found that educators recognize the potential of AI to provide personalized learning experiences and assist with administrative tasks, but they also express concerns about the loss of human interaction and the need for transparency in AI-driven assessment.

The inadequacy of current LIS curricula to address AI is a recurring theme in the literature. As Khademizadeh and Shekari (2025) argue, AI literacy is no longer a niche skill but a "necessity of curriculum transformation." They emphasize that AI literacy goes beyond technical knowledge to include an understanding of the "social, ethical, and economic implications" of the technology. The goal is to enable individuals to "critically engage with AI and use it responsibly" (Khademizadeh & Shekari, 2025). The provided papers collectively call for a curriculum that prepares students for a new set of competencies related to AI, including data analysis, ethical reasoning, and critical evaluation of AI tools.

3. A Proposed Framework for Transformation

Based on the synthesis of the provided literature, this paper proposes a multi-faceted, human-centered framework for transforming professional development and curriculum in LIS.

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3.1 Re-envisioning Professional Development: Professional development for LIS educators must be proactive and continuous.

3.1.1 Foundational Workshops: Provide workshops that focus on the basics of AI, machine learning, and data analytics tailored for LIS professionals. This would address the knowledge gap identified by Oyetola et al. (2024).

3.1.2 Hands-on Application: Training should not be purely theoretical. It must include practical modules on using AI tools relevant to LIS tasks, such as those for information retrieval, automated cataloging, and service optimization (Chandrashekara & Mulimani, 2024).

3.1.3 Collaborative Communities of Practice: Establish online forums or mentorship programs to foster ongoing learning and peer support among educators. This would create a space for sharing best practices and addressing new challenges as they arise.

3.2 Integrating AI into LIS Curricula: The curriculum must be fundamentally restructured to embed AI literacy as a core competency.

3.2.1 Core Curriculum Integration: AI concepts should be woven into foundational courses rather than being relegated to a single, optional class. For example, a course on cataloging should include a module on AI-driven metadata creation, and a course on reference services should cover the use and ethical implications of chatbots.

3.2.2 Case Study-Based Learning: Use real-world case studies to help students grapple with the ethical dilemmas and practical challenges of AI in a library setting. Topics could include algorithmic bias in search results or privacy concerns with user data analysis.

3.2.3 Experiential Learning: Encourage capstone projects or internships where students design or implement an AI-driven solution for a real-world information problem. This approach, as suggested by Mondal (2025), helps to prepare students for the dynamic demands of the digital information environment

4. Challenges

The transformation to an AI-integrated LIS education is not without its challenges. These hurdles must be addressed to ensure a successful and ethical transition.

4.1 Curriculum Development and Skill Gaps

4.1.1 Outdated Curricula: A significant challenge is updating LIS curricula to keep pace with the rapid advancements in AI. Many programs lack dedicated courses or modules on AI, machine learning, and data analytics.

4.1.2 Faculty Expertise: LIS faculty may not have the necessary expertise in AI to effectively teach these topics. This creates a need for professional development and training to bridge the knowledge gap.

4.1.3 Defining Core Competencies: There's a challenge in defining exactly what AI skills are essential for future LIS professionals. Should the focus be on programming, data science, or simply on understanding the applications and ethical implications of AI?

4.2. Ethical and Social Hurdles

4.2.1 Algorithmic Bias: LIS education must address how AI systems can inherit and amplify biases present in their training data. Educating students on how to identify and mitigate these biases is crucial for ensuring equitable access to information.

4.2.2 Data Privacy and Security: The use of AI in libraries often involves collecting vast amounts of user data to personalize services. LIS programs must teach students how to handle this data responsibly, ensuring user privacy and complying with data protection regulations.

4.2.3 Lack of Transparency: Many AI algorithms are "black boxes," meaning their decision-making processes are opaque. LIS students need to learn how to advocate for transparency and accountability in the AI tools they use and recommend.

4.3. Infrastructure and Resources

4.3.1 Cost and Accessibility: Implementing AI-enhanced education can be expensive. Not all LIS programs or institutions have the financial resources to invest in the necessary technology, software, and training, which could exacerbate the digital divide.

4.3.2 Technological Infrastructure: Academic institutions need robust technological infrastructure to support AI education, including high-performance computing, large datasets for training models, and access to specialized software.

5. Future Directions for LIS Education

5.1. Developing AI-Centric Curricula

5.1.1 New Courses: Future LIS curricula will likely include core courses on AI literacy, data science for librarians, and the ethics of information technology.

5.1.2 Integrating AI into Existing Courses: Instead of just creating new courses, AI concepts will be integrated into traditional LIS topics like information retrieval, cataloging, and reference services. For example, students might learn how AI-powered tools can enhance resource discovery or automate metadata creation.

5.1.3 Practical, Hands-on Experience: LIS programs will need to offer hands-on projects where students can apply AI concepts to real-world library scenarios, such as developing a recommendation system or analyzing user behavior data.

5.2. Embracing New Professional Roles

5.2.1 The "AI-ready" Librarian: The future LIS professional will be a "blended professional" who combines traditional LIS skills with a strong understanding of AI. These professionals will be adept at curating and managing AI-driven systems, as well as providing AI-focused information literacy instruction to library users.

5.2.2 Interdisciplinary Collaboration: LIS education will increasingly foster collaboration with other departments, such as computer science, data science, and ethics. This will allow students to gain a broader understanding of AI from different perspectives.

5.3. Focusing on Lifelong Learning

5.3.1 Continuous Professional Development: Given the rapid pace of change in AI, LIS professionals will need to engage in continuous learning throughout their careers. LIS schools can play a role by offering post-graduate certifications and workshops on emerging AI technologies.

5.3.2 Ethical Leadership: The future of LIS education will emphasize the role of information professionals as ethical leaders in the AI landscape. Librarians are uniquely positioned to advocate for fair, transparent, and equitable use of AI, and their education should prepare them for this critical role.

6. Conclusion: The transformation of professional development and curriculum in Library and Information Science is not a choice but an imperative. The research reviewed demonstrates that AI is already reshaping the profession, making the acquisition of AI literacy a core competency for both educators and students. By developing a comprehensive framework that includes foundational training, practical application, and a strong focus on ethical implications, LIS programs can prepare a new generation of professionals who are not only capable of using AI tools but are also equipped to lead the charge in fostering responsible and ethical AI adoption. This proactive, human-centered approach will ensure that the LIS profession remains relevant and vital in the digital age.

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Need of AI in College Libraries in IT Age, it's implementation and application of various tools .

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-: Abstract :-

This research article includes AI Concept , it's need in College Libraries, AI Types of Tools, Key features, Application & benefits for students, academic researchers and Scientists along with limitations, conclusion and references.

Key Words :-

Artificial intelligence, Need of AI in College Libraries, AI Tools required in College Libraries, Link unavailable tool of AI , Elicit Tool of AI, Research Rabbit AI Tool , Semantic Scholar AI Tool, Connect Papers AI Tool, Benefit of AI for students, Benefit of AI for Academic Researchers, Benefit of AI for Scientists.

Introduction :-

Now we are living in ' Digital ' age. We observe that in each and every field of life there is a impact of Digitisation. University and College Libraries are not left behind. We have to search information required by readers including researchers through different resources. So many online resources we have to search for retrieving required information by our users. Now a days AI concept is introduced in almost each and every field of our life. In future revolutionary changes will be occurred in Education field along with other fields due to implementation of AI concept. Hence it is very important to know what is AI ? along with different tools of it. This research article shows need of AI in College Libraries and it's application by using different tools such as Link unavailable, Elicit, Research Rabbit tool , Semantic Scholar and Concept Papers. We also know better the key features of each tool.

Similarly we know the benefits of tools from the point of view of Library users including researchers too.

Definition :-

AI is the simulation of human intelligence in machines to enable them to perform tasks that typically require human cognitive abilities like learning, reasoning, problem-solving, decision-making, and language understanding.

Implementation of AI in College Libraries

Implementing AI in college libraries can significantly enhance the user experience, improve operational efficiency, and revolutionize the way libraries function. Here are some key aspects to consider

Need of AI in College Libraries

➤ Enhanced Resource Discovery:

AI-powered search tools can quickly scan vast amounts of data, providing relevant results and reducing the time spent on manual searches.

➤ Personalized Recommendations:

AI-driven systems can offer tailored recommendations based on users' search patterns, preferences, and behavioral histories.

➤ Automated Tasks:

AI can automate routine tasks such as data processing, metadata creation, and basic information retrieval, freeing librarians to focus on more complex tasks.

➤ Improved User Experience:

AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants can provide 24/7 support, answering queries, guiding users through library resources, and offering personalized recommendations

AI Tools required in Collage Libraries

1) **Link Unavailable :**

Tool is likely a feature or tool that helps users identify and manage broken or unavailable links. Here's a brief overview -

Features of Link Unavailable

➤ Tool Link Checking

The tool scans and identifies broken or unavailable links within a given dataset or webpage.

- Error Reporting: It provides detailed reports on the status of links, including error codes and messages.
- Link Replacement: Some tools may offer suggestions or automated replacement of broken links with functional alternatives. Benefits
- Improved User Experience: By identifying and fixing broken links, users can ensure a smoother browsing experience.
- SEO Optimization:
 - Removing broken links can improve website crawlability and search engine rankings.
 - Time-Saving: Automated link checking and reporting save time and effort compared to manual checks.
- Use Cases Webmasters: Website owners and administrators can use link unavailable tools to maintain website integrity and user experience
- **Content Creators :**

Bloggers, writers, and content creators can ensure that links in their content are functional and up-to date

➤ **Researchers :**

Researchers can use link unavailable tools to verify the accuracy of citations and references.

If you're looking for a specific link unavailable tool there are wseveral options available online, such as Dead Link Checker, Broken Link Checker, or Link Checker. These tools can help you identify and manage broken link efficiently.

2) Elicit Tool

Elicit is an AI-powered research assistant designed to help researchers and academics efficiently explore and organize scientific literature. It leverages advanced language models to provide relevant paper recommendations, summaries, and insights.

Key Features of Elicit

➤ Smart Search:

Elicit uses natural language processing to understand your search queries, providing more relevant results.

➤ Paper Summaries:

The tool generates concise summaries of research papers, helping you quickly grasp the key points.

➤ Citation Information:

Elicit provides citation details for papers, making it easier to track references and related work.

➤ Research Organization:

You can organize and categorize papers into collections, making it easier to manage your research.

Benefits for Researchers

➤ Efficient Discovery:

Elicit helps you find relevant papers quickly, saving time and effort.

➤ Improved Organization:

The tool enables you to categorize and manage your research papers effectively.

➤ Enhanced Productivity:

By streamlining the research process, Elicit allows you to focus on higher-level tasks, such as analysis and writing.

Who Can Use Elicit?

➤ Academic Researchers:

Elicit is ideal for researchers looking to stay updated on the latest developments in their field.

➤ Students:

The tool is useful for students working on research papers, theses, or dissertations.

➤ Scientists:

Elicit's features make it a valuable resource for scientists seeking to explore new research areas.

Limitations and Considerations

➤ Database Coverage:

Elicit's effectiveness depends on the scope and coverage of its database, which may not include all scientific publications.

➤ AI Limitations:

The tool's performance relies on the quality of its AI models and the data they are trained on.

Overall, Elicit is a powerful tool for researchers and academics, offering advanced features to streamline the research process and improve productivity.

3) Research Rabbit Tool

Research Rabbit is an AI-powered tool designed to streamline the research process for academics, scientists, and students. It's like having a personal research assistant that helps you discover, organize, and analyze relevant academic papers.

Key Features:

➤ **Personalized Recommendations:**

Research Rabbit learns your interests and provides tailored suggestions for relevant literature, saving you time and boosting productivity.

➤ **Interactive Visualizations:**

The platform offers dynamic visual representations of scholarly networks, allowing you to explore connections between authors, papers, and research topics effectively.

➤ **Collaboration Tools:**

Research Rabbit enables users to share collections and insights with peers, fostering collaborative research efforts.

➤ **Citation Mapping:**

Visualize connections between papers and authors, helping you identify key works and emerging trends in your field.

➤ **Trend Tracking:**

Stay updated on the latest research in your field with personalized alerts and notifications.

➤ **Benefits of Efficient Discovery:**

Research Rabbit helps you find relevant papers quickly, reducing the time spent on literature searches.

➤ **Improved Organization:**

The tool allows you to categorize and manage your research papers effectively, making it easier to access and review them.

➤ **Enhanced Collaboration:**

Research Rabbit's collaboration features facilitate working with colleagues and peers on research projects.

Who Can Use Research Rabbit?

➤ **Students:**

Research Rabbit is an excellent resource for students working on research papers, theses, or dissertations.

➤ **Academic Researchers:**

The tool is ideal for researchers looking to stay updated on the latest developments in their field and identify potential research gaps.

➤ **Scientists:**

Research Rabbit's features, such as citation mapping and trend tracking, make it a valuable resource for scientists seeking to explore new research areas.

➤ **Cost and Accessibility:**

Research Rabbit is entirely free for researchers, with no costs or subscription fees.

The platform guarantees free access to its core features, ensuring that users can explore, discover, and organize research materials without financial barriers

4) **Details Semantic Scholar Tool**

Semantic Scholar is a search engine specifically designed for scientific literature. Developed by the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence (AI2), it aims to improve the discoverability and accessibility of research papers across various disciplines.

Key Features of Semantic Scholar

➤ **AI-Powered Search:**

Utilizes natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning to provide more relevant search results.

➤ **Paper Summaries:**

Offers concise summaries of research papers, helping users quickly grasp the key points.

➤ **Citation Information:**

Provides citation details for papers, making it easier to track references and related work.

➤ **Author Profiles:**

Allows users to create profiles, showcasing their research output and impact.

➤ **Research Feeds:**

Enables users to stay updated on the latest research in their areas of interest.

➤ **Benefits for Researchers Efficient Discovery:**

Helps researchers find relevant papers more efficiently, saving time and effort.

➤ **Improved Accessibility:**

Makes scientific literature more accessible to a broader audience, including those without extensive technical backgrounds.

➤ **Enhanced Collaboration:**

Facilitates collaboration among researchers by providing tools for discovering and connecting with others in their field.

Applications

➤ **Academic Research:**

Useful for students, researchers, and academics looking for reliable sources and staying updated on the latest research.

➤ **Industry Research:**

Beneficial for professionals in industries that rely on scientific research, such as pharmaceuticals, technology, and healthcare.

➤ **Limitations**

➤ **Coverage:**

While extensive, the database may not cover all scientific publications, particularly those in niche areas or news journals.

➤ **Dependence on AI:**

The effectiveness of search results and summaries relies on the quality of the AI algorithms and the data they are trained on.

Overall, Semantic Scholar is a valuable tool for anyone involved in scientific research, offering advanced search capabilities and features that enhance the discovery and understanding of research papers.

➤ **Connect Papers Tool**

Connect Papers is a tool designed to help researchers and academics explore and visualize connections between research papers. It provides a platform to discover relevant papers, identify key works, and understand the relationships between different research areas.

Key Features of Connect Papers

➤ **Graph-Based Visualization:**

Connect Papers uses a graph-based approach to visualize the connections between papers, authors, and research topics.

➤ **Paper Recommendations:**

The tool suggests relevant papers based on your search queries, citations, and references.

➤ **Citation Network:**

Connect Papers displays the citation network of papers, allowing you to explore the influence and impact of research works.

➤ **Author and Paper Profiles:**

The platform provides profiles for authors and papers, showcasing their research output, citations, and impact.

➤ **Benefits for Researchers Efficient Discovery:**

Connect Papers helps researchers find relevant papers quickly, saving time and effort.

➤ **Improved Understanding:**

The tool's visualization features enable researchers to grasp the relationships between papers and research areas more effectively.

➤ **Enhanced Productivity:**

By streamlining the research process, Connect Papers allows researchers to focus on higher-level tasks, such as analysis and writing.

Who Can Use Connect Papers?

➤ **Academic Researchers:**

Connect Papers is ideal for researchers looking to explore new research areas, identify key works, and understand the connections between papers.

➤ **Students:**

The tool is useful for students working on research papers, theses, or dissertations, helping them discover relevant literature and organize their research.

➤ **Scientists:**

Connect Papers' features make it a valuable resource for scientists seeking to explore new research areas and identify potential collaborations.

Overall, Connect Papers is a powerful tool for researchers and academics, offering advanced features to streamline the research process and improve productivity.

Conclusion :-

We know from this article what is AI concept with definition. Similarly we get knowledge regarding need of AI in College Libraries during 'Information Technology Age'. 5 different types of tools has been mentioned with Key features , benefits of them from the point of Library Users and limitations of AI Tools.

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The Future of Academic Support: AI Applications in Writing, Research, and Library Management

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ABSTRACT

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into higher education is transforming the ways in which students, researchers, and academic institutions approach learning and knowledge management. This paper explores the future of academic support through AI applications in academic writing, research, and library management. In academic writing, AI-powered tools assist in grammar checking, plagiarism detection, content generation, and citation management, thereby enhancing productivity and academic integrity. In research, AI facilitates literature review, data analysis, knowledge discovery, and collaboration, enabling scholars to access, interpret, and synthesize information more efficiently. In the realm of library management, AI supports automated cataloging, personalized information retrieval, digital resource management, and user engagement through intelligent systems. Together, these applications not only streamline academic processes but also create new opportunities for innovation, equity, and accessibility in education. However, challenges such as ethical concerns, data privacy, and over-reliance on technology must be addressed to maximize AI's potential. This study highlights how AI-driven academic support is shaping the future of education and emphasizes the need for balanced integration of technology and human expertise.

Keywords:- Artificial Intelligence (AI), Academic support, Academic writing, Research assistance, Library management, AI in Higher education, Digital Libraries, Knowledge management, Plagiarism detection

Introduction

A new era of academic support systems and higher education has been brought about by the quick development of artificial intelligence (AI). AI is being used more and more into research, academic writing, and library administration, offering cutting-edge resources to improve efficiency, precision, and accessibility. In order to improve the overall caliber of scholarly work, AI-powered platforms help researchers and students with grammatical correction, plagiarism detection, language refinement, and even idea generation when it comes to academic writing. Researchers can save time and concentrate on critical thinking and knowledge generation by using AI apps to facilitate effective data analysis, literature reviews, and predictive modeling. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is essential to library management because it can automate cataloging,

enhance information retrieval, manage digital resources, and customize services for patrons. Collectively, these applications represent a change toward an academic ecosystem that is more intelligent and helpful. AI is changing how information is created and accessed by simplifying repetitive activities and offering intelligent support. It is also opening the door for more inventive, efficient, and inclusive learning settings.

Objective

- To investigate how artificial intelligence (AI) might improve academic writing through content creation, plagiarism detection, and grammatical correction.
- To investigate the ways in which AI tools aid in knowledge discovery, literature review support, and data analysis in academic research.
- To examine how AI is incorporated into library management systems for digital preservation, cataloguing, information retrieval, and recommendation services.
- To determine the advantages and difficulties of implementing AI in educational settings in terms of precision, effectiveness, and morality.
- To assess how AI-powered academic support services might enhance research, teaching, and learning in the future.
- To provide methods for integrating AI technologies into academic settings in a way that promotes sustainable knowledge management.

Literature Review

According to recent studies, libraries are starting to incorporate AI more and more, with an emphasis on automation, personalization, and a user-centered Lund & Wang (2023) discussed about robotics and virtual reality supporting library services. Alam et.al (2024) and Subaveerapandiyan and Gozali (2024)

Academic writing, which is defined by organized concept exposition, arguments supported by facts, and logical reasoning, is a crucial part of research. It does provide difficulties, though, such as managing enormous volumes of data and intricate concepts. These issues are being addressed by the growing importance of incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) into academic writing. Investigating particular fields where AI greatly aids academic writing is the goal of this review Khalifa (2024)

This study looks at how Library and Information Science (LIS) students use and understand reference management software and AI-driven applications, with an emphasis on adoption trends, obstacles, and solutions for better integration into academic processes Munasingle & Senarathna (2025). The main focus of the paper is on the application of AI to knowledge discovery. Eleven different potential approaches libraries might adopt to such AI applications are analyzed and their likelihood evaluated.

The purpose of this conceptual paper is to consider the likelihood of the adoption of different approaches to AI in academic libraries cox (2022) Beyond theoretical talks, this book explores the practical aspects of integrating AI, showing how it helps identify topics, improves research design, and enhances data analysis. Srivastava & Agrawal (2024) The study explored the role of academic librarians in maintaining academic integrity with the prevalence of AI writing tools among students Filson and Atuase (2024)

Methodology

This study employed a qualitative research design, reviewing existing literature and policy documents from higher education institutions. A thematic analysis approach was used to identify recurring themes regarding librarians' roles in addressing AI challenges.

AI Applications in Writing, Research, and Library Management

Higher education has traditionally been based on academic integrity, which guarantees impartiality, creativity, and authority in scholarly writing. The academic scene has changed, though, with the introduction of AI-powered writing tools like text generators and paraphrase software. While when used properly, these tools can improve learning, when misused, they offer serious risks to integrity, especially when it comes to undiscovered plagiarism and reliance on machine-generated content.

The new problem facing academic librarians, who have historically been in charge of helping students with research and information management, is encouraging ethical use of AI. Instead of serving as information resource gatekeepers, they are now teaching digital literacy, ethical reasoning, and policy advocacy.

Table 1: AI tools for my Favourite

Sr. No	AI tools	Sr. No	AI tools
1	Chatpfd	9	Research rabbit
2	Connected Papers	10	Napkin .io
3	Julius	11	Elicit
4	Jenni	12	Trinka and Quillbot
5	Paper Digest	13	Bio-render
6	writefull	14	Otlet.io
7	Penelope	15	Japee©
8	Litmaps		

Table no 2:- Essential Research Tools

Sr. No	Essential Research Tools	
1	Systematic Reviews	Rayyan covidence -Revman5
2	Literature Review	Litmaps, scite Rdiscovery
3	Plagiarism check	Ithenticate, Drillbit, Turnitin, Crossref, Grammerly
4	Publication portfolio	Research Gate- Google scholar, ORCID,

		Academia .com
5	Illustrations	Mindmeister ,xmind, mermaid.gs
6	Data collection	Redcap, xm Qualtrics, surveymonkey, google form
7	Data Analysis	Python, Graphpad, Dedoose
8	Productivity	Obsidian,calendly -Doodle
9	Best Ph D Writing tools	Writefull (mostly used in paraphrasing)

Table no 3:- Top AI tools for Research

Sr.no	Top AI tools fot Research
1	http://quillbot.com
2	http://scite.ai
3	http://consensus.app
4	http://chatpdf.com
5	http://elicit.org
6	http://www.trinka.ai
7	http://www.scholarly.com
8	http://typeset.io
9	http://www.openread.academy
10	http://www.semanticsholar.org

a. Content Generation and Idea Exploration

- **AI-driven writing assistants** like OpenAI's GPT models, Grammarly, and other specialized tools can help generate ideas, provide inspiration, or even create drafts for academic papers. By feeding in a research question or topic, these tools can suggest relevant sources, frameworks, or even potential arguments, reducing the burden of brainstorming.
- **Literature synthesis:** AI tools can rapidly scan a vast corpus of research papers and synthesize key insights, trends, or gaps in knowledge. This helps in reviewing large amounts of literature quickly without having to manually sift through hundreds of articles.

b. Language and Grammar Improvement

- **Grammar checkers and style editors:** Tools like Grammarly, ProWritingAid, and Hemingway Editor help scholars polish their writing by offering suggestions on grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and clarity. These tools are especially helpful for non-native English speakers.

c. Plagiarism Detection

AI-powered plagiarism checkers :-What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's work, ideas, or intellectual property without giving proper credit or acknowledgment, presenting it as your own. It can occur in various forms, including:

1. **Copy-Pasting:** Directly copying text, code, or other content without attribution.
2. **Paraphrasing Without Credit:** Rewriting someone else's work without acknowledgment.
3. **Uncredited Ideas:** Using someone's unique concepts or research without citing them.
4. **Code Plagiarism:** Copying software code or algorithms without permission or attribution.

AI Tools Used in Academics

Smart Content Creation and Grading:

Automated Essay Scoring (AES): AI-based systems like Turnitin, Grammarly, Drillbit and other AI tools automatically check grammar, spelling, plagiarism, and even provide feedback on the structure and quality of writing.

Adaptive Learning Platforms: Tools like Knewton and DreamBox use AI to personalize content for students based on their learning pace and progress.

Intelligent Tutoring Systems: Programs like Carnegie Learning and Squirrel AI provide students with personalized tutoring experiences based on their individual needs.

Automated Research Tools: AI systems such as Semantic Scholar and Google Scholar can assist in quickly finding relevant academic papers, summarizing them, and suggesting further reading based on citation data.

AI-Powered Classroom Assistants: Tools like Google Assistant, Siri, and Alexa are increasingly being used to answer student queries, manage classroom schedules, and help with administrative tasks.

Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs):

Platforms like Coursera and EdTech tools often use AI to suggest relevant courses or resources to learners based on previous behavior and performance.

AI chatbots (such as IBM Watson) are used for answering student queries and enhancing engagement.

Data Analytics:

AI-driven tools are being used to track student performance, predict learning outcomes, and provide insights to educators to improve teaching strategies. Tools like Civitas Learning and Blackboard Analytics use predictive analytics to track student success rates.

Student Data Privacy: AI tools often require access to large amounts of personal data, including academic records, attendance, and even behavioral patterns. This raises concerns about how data is stored, who has access to it, and how it might be used without consent.

Surveillance: Tools like AI-based facial recognition or surveillance in classrooms raise privacy concerns, especially regarding consent and the potential for misuse or overreach by institutions.

Writing Assistance for Structure and Coherence

AI-powered writing tools assist in structuring an academic paper by suggesting sections, creating outlines, and ensuring logical flow between ideas. This feature is especially useful for researchers who may be new to academic writing or unfamiliar with formal structures in a specific field.

AI Tools in Research

AI tools enhance the research process by automating tasks, improving data analysis, and offering more sophisticated ways to process large datasets. Here's how:

Literature Search :-

- To develop the searching and analytical skills necessary in a research project .
- To demonstrate the knowledge through a coherent and systematic text that helps to link what learned from previous research to what you are researching for you own research project.

CHALLENGES

Exponential growth of information in a variety of form and formats tapping the right, relevant and authentic information is the challenge for researcher.

Tapping the right information at the right the is a big challenge.

Search tools,

Many search tools is available for examples. online public Access computer, web OPAC, Databases and aggregators for e- Journals and e-books, open education resources, Institutional repositories, electronic thesis and dissertations.

Table No. 3 Sources of online information

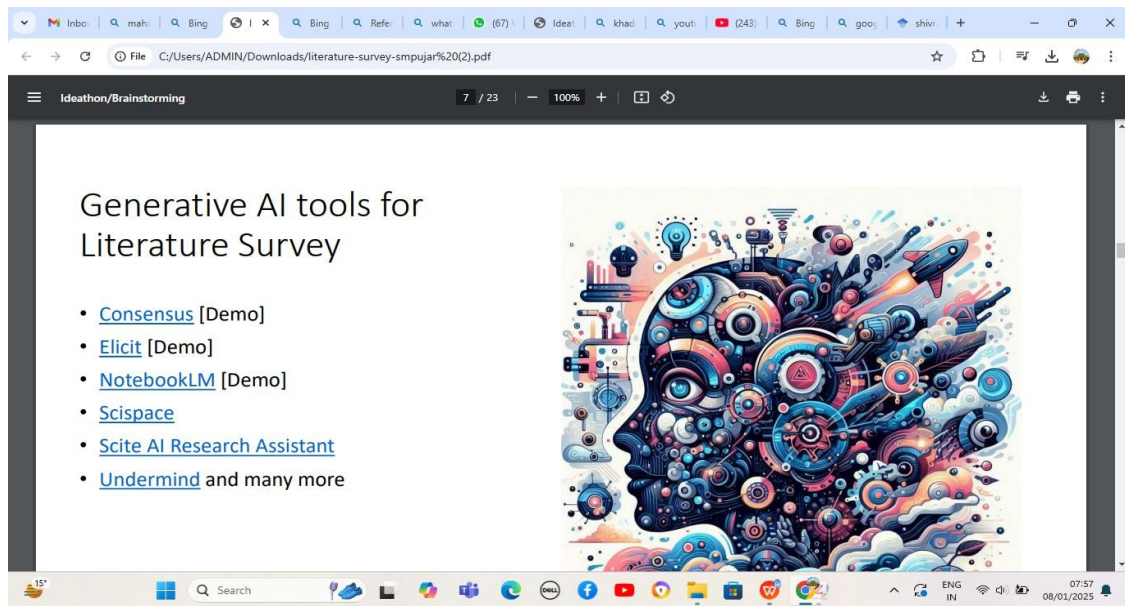
Primary, secondary and tertiary sources are available.

Sr. No	Primary Sources	Secondary Sources	Tertiary Sources
1	Dairies, letter	E-BOOKS	Bibliograpghy of bibliograp
2	Novel, essays	E-MAGAZIENS	Union catalogues
3	Research Reports	Indexing	Guide to the Literature
4	Electronic research journals	Abstacting	Directories
5	Photos	Literature review	Handbook
6	Videos		Guide to the References sou
7	ETD		
8	OER, IR ETC.		

Table No 4:- Online sources list:-

1	JSTOR	11	HATHY TRUST
2	Sage open	12	Projct muse
3	Research & political	13	Shodganga
4	Big data and society	14	Open access repository of india thesis
5	Social media and society	15	EBSCO Open Dissertation
6	Social science rese networks	16	Proquest open
7	DOAJ	17	Librarian digital library
8	CORE		
9	Springeropen		
10	Mancheruniversity press		

Literature Review using AI :-



a. Data Mining and Meta Analysis

- **AI-powered data mining tools** Techniques used in business managements to extract meaning information from the huge databases that are generate by electronic and other methods of modern business.
- **Statistical analysis tools** (e.g., IBM SPSS, R, Python with Scikit-learn) use AI algorithms to analyze complex quantitative datasets, generate predictive models, and offer insights. AI can help researchers uncover trends in data that might otherwise be missed by traditional statistical methods.
- **Meta Analysis:-** Making an analysis of results of a number of results of previous research an analysis keep in mind it is not literature review.
- **Predictive Analytics:-** In certain fields like social sciences, economics, or health studies, AI tools use **predictive analyticts** to forecast future trends based on current data. These tools help researchers generate hypotheses or make informed decisions on the next steps in their research projects.

b. Automation of Systematic Reviews

- **AI-powered systematic review platforms** such as **Rayyan** and **Covidence** assist in conducting systematic reviews by automating literature screening, coding, and data extraction. This significantly reduces the time researchers spend reviewing papers and extracting relevant data for meta-analysis.

References management tools

- **Citations and referencing:** AI-based citation tools (e.g., Zotero, EndNote, Mendeley) can automatically generate citations, reference lists, and bibliographies in various styles

(APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.). Some tools also offer features for managing and storing references for future use.

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Research Network portals

Google scholar, Orcid, Academia.edu, Research Gate, Microsoft AI Tools in Library FunctionsResrarcher, Figshare, SSRN, Pubion, Elsevier (Scopus).

2.

Libraries play a critical role in supporting academic research, and AI tools can significantly enhance library functions, improving access to resources, management of collections, and user support. Here's how AI is transforming the library environment:

a. Cataloging and Metadata Management

- AI technologies, particularly **machine learning** and **NLP**, assist in cataloging and managing large volumes of academic resources. Automated systems help libraries classify, tag, and create metadata for new resources, making it easier for users to search for and access materials.
- **Semantic search engines:** Instead of relying solely on keywords, AI-driven search engines (e.g., **Elasticsearch**) understand the context of queries and can retrieve more relevant results based on meaning rather than exact matches.

b. Personalized Recommendations

- Libraries are beginning to integrate AI-driven recommendation systems similar to those used by streaming services to suggest books, articles, or journals based on a user's past

interactions or research interests. This is particularly valuable for academic libraries as it can help guide students and faculty members to relevant resources they may not have discovered otherwise.

b. Digital Libraries and Archiving

Digital libraries and archiving refer to the creation, organization, storage, preservation, and dissemination of digital content, making information and resources accessible to a wide range of users. These practices are vital in academia, research, cultural preservation, and other sectors where knowledge management is crucial. Here's an overview:

Digital Libraries

Digital libraries are online repositories of digital objects, which include text, images, audio, video, and data. They provide organized access to collections for various purposes, including education, research, and entertainment.

Key Features

1. **Accessibility:** Content is accessible from anywhere with an internet connection.
2. **Searchability:** Metadata and search tools allow users to find information quickly.
3. **Content Diversity:** Includes multimedia content such as eBooks, journals, images, videos, and datasets.
4. **User-Centric:** Tailored interfaces and personalization options enhance the user experience.

Examples

- **General Repositories:** Project Gutenberg, Internet Archive
- **Academic Repositories:** PubMed, JSTOR, IEEE Xplore
- **Specialized Libraries:** Digital Public Library of America, European

Digital Archiving

Digital archiving focuses on the long-term preservation of digital content, ensuring its availability and usability over time. It's crucial for maintaining cultural heritage, corporate records, and historical data.

Key Features

1. **Preservation:** Ensures that digital materials remain accessible despite technological changes (e.g., hardware obsolescence, software updates).
2. **Authenticity:** Maintains the integrity and reliability of the content.
3. **Metadata:** Detailed metadata aids in the cataloging, retrieval, and long-term management of archives.

Common Practices

- **Digitization:** Converting physical documents and artifacts into digital formats.
- **Data Migration:** Moving content to newer formats or systems.
- **Emulation:** Simulating old hardware/software environments to access outdated file formats.
- **Backup Systems:** Redundant storage to prevent data loss.

Examples

- **Institutional Repositories:** Library of Congress Digital Collections, British Library Digital Archives, DOAR, ROAR (Registry of Open Access Repositories),
- **Cultural Preservation:** UNESCO Memory of the World, National Archives

Challenges

1. **Copyright and Licensing:** Balancing accessibility with intellectual property laws.
2. **Technological Obsolescence:** Managing outdated file formats, hardware, and software.
3. **Data Volume:** Handling ever-increasing amounts of data.
4. **Funding and Resources:** Sustaining digital library and archiving efforts over time.

d. Virtual Reference and Library Assistance

- AI-powered **chatbots** and **virtual assistants** (such as **LibAnswers**) can handle user queries about library services, access to resources, or even guide users to specific materials. These tools help automate repetitive tasks like answering FAQs, leaving librarians more time for complex tasks.
- **AI-based virtual librarians** can also help guide users through complex databases or perform research queries, simulating a traditional reference desk but with 24/7 availability.

e. Text Mining for Research

- Libraries and research institutions use AI tools to **mine scholarly content** and provide insights into research trends. These tools extract valuable insights from large corpora, such as identifying clusters of related research topics, uncovering citation patterns, or spotting emerging trends in a field.

f. Enhancing Accessibility

- AI tools can also help make academic resources more **accessible** to people with disabilities. For example, AI-powered **speech recognition** or **text-to-speech** technologies can help turn text-based resources into audio, allowing visually impaired users to access academic content. Similarly, AI-powered **translation services** break down language barriers, making resources available to a global audience.

3.Challenges and Considerations

While the potential of AI tools is vast, there are some challenges:

- **Bias in AI algorithms:** AI tools are not free from biases, which can sometimes affect the objectivity of research recommendations or analysis.
- **Data privacy:** Ensuring the privacy and security of sensitive data used by AI systems is a major concern, particularly in academic research.
- **Ethical concerns:** The rise of AI-generated content (e.g., in writing) raises ethical questions about authorship, originality, and the nature of scholarly work.
- **Over-reliance on AI:** There is a concern that over-reliance on AI tools could erode critical thinking and traditional research skills. It's important for researchers to balance the use of AI tools with human judgment.

Conclusion

By increasing productivity, accuracy, and resource accessibility, emerging AI tools are transforming academic writing, research, and library operations. Although there are issues to be resolved, especially in the areas of ethics, privacy, and bias, there is no denying that these technologies have a positive impact on productivity, research discovery, and library administration. AI will probably become an even more significant component of academia as it develops further, freeing up academics to concentrate more on advanced research and analysis.

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A Step-by-Step Guide to Developing Effective Mission and Vision Statements and Their Importance in Designing a Balanced Scorecard for the University Libraries

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Abstract :

Collection, users and staff are an asset of the successful library. The library should work with the proper vision set by the library to complete its mission. i.e. Users Satisfaction. It's highly important to increase our value in an accelerated growth of knowledge. Vision and mission statements are important to design strategy for the library. In another sentence, it works as a mirror image of the library. To achieve the goals every library should have its proper mission and vision statement. Mission and Vision of the organization play key role in planning and decision making. It helps to generate short-term and long-term objectives for the library. It helps the library authority in applying new policy. The aim of this paper is to identify the importance of separate mission and vision statements and provide step-by-step methodology to formulate mission and vision statement for the library. It plays key role in designing and development of balanced scorecard for the university libraries.

Key Words: Mission Statement, Vision Statement, University Library, Strategic Planning, Balanced Scorecard

Introduction :

An academic library is popularly known for its academic purposes. Students, Researchers, Faculty Members are the main users of the academic library. Due to globalization, competition is raised among the institutions to attract students towards their organization. Libraries play key role in the dissemination of information as well as knowledge. Various organizations and institutions are very well known for their libraries as well as collection.

Now a days University libraries are called the Knowledge Resource Centre. It plays vital role in education, learning, research and dissemination of knowledge. Quality and Quantity are unavoidable tools to run any organization. Regular evaluation of the organization is essential for future development. As far as Library is concerned its evaluation is done on various levels such as its collection, services, staff members and uses i.e. according to its

performance and user satisfaction. It is a mirror of an organization. It helps in the development of the organization from all possible ways.

Procedure to formulate mission and vision statements of the organization.

Step 1: Understanding Institutional Goals

- It is necessary to first Analyze the university's mission and vision statements.
- Identify core themes such as research, education, innovation, and community service and institutional priorities.

Step 2: Engaging Stakeholders

- Consult with library staff, faculty, students, and administration.
- Conduct surveys or focus groups to collect expectations and needs.
- Identify common themes from feedback to shape statements.

Step 3: Defining the Mission Statement The mission statement should:

- Clearly articulate the library's purpose and role.
- Highlight key services and resources.
- Support academic and research needs.

Step 4: Developing the Vision Statement The vision statement should:

- Reflect long-term aspirations.
- Emphasize innovation, digital transformation, and knowledge accessibility.
- Be forward-looking and inspirational.

Step 5: Ensuring Clarity and Conciseness

- Keep statements brief and impactful.
- Use clear, jargon-free language.
- Avoid ambiguity and broad generalizations.

Step 6: Validation and Revision

- Gather feedback from stakeholders and refine the drafts.
- Ensure alignment with university policies and strategic initiatives.
- Finalize statements with institutional approval.

Step 7: Implementation and Communication

- Incorporate the statements into library policies and strategic documents.
- Display them on the library website and promotional materials.
- Use them as principles for development and decision-making to provide user centric library services.

Step 8: Periodic Review and Adaptation

- Schedule regular reviews (every 3-5 years).
- Update statements to reflect evolving academic and technological needs.
- Maintain alignment with institutional growth and policy changes.

Mission Statement

Mission statements are always designed to march on successive paths. A library mission statement provides answers to some very important questions related to the vision and quality. Clear, understandable mission statement clarifies the role of the University library. Mission statement should be broad enough to allow growth and expansion but narrow enough to keep the library motifs clearly focused.

Attributes for Useful Mission Statement are:

- **Simple and Clear:** A mission statement must be expressed in one or two sentences. It should be simple and clear. Statement must avoid the use of any difficult words. It should reflect clear meaning. It should not be vague.
- **Broad and long-term in nature:** While designing a Mission statement one must take care of that; it should be valid for long term. It should offer space for future changes occurs time to time.
- **Focus on the present:** The library's mission statement should be realistic in nature. It should not be future oriented or historical sense. It should focus on the individual goals and strategy of the institution.
- **Easy to understand:** If the mission statement is easy to understand then it will be easy to communicate with all the staff members, stakeholders as well as to the community.

Following templates may be used to update library's mission statement.

We exist to (Purpose or need)

Provide (Services and Products)

For (Customers)

So that (Planned outcomes or benefits).

As soon as Library's mission statement is framed, it should be reviewed by staff members at all levels as well as stakeholders to work to embrace without any concerns. The mission statement must serve all by focusing on the vision, including all staff members and other stakeholders. The library's vision provides a picture of the future that clarifies the libraries' direction for its development. It also helps staff members to understand their respective roles.

The Vision Statement: A vision should be brief and reflects a futuristic picture as it is visualized by the users, stakeholders and employees. A vision statement forecasts the library's mission and its intended results. A good vision will assist the library in formulating strategies as per the objectives as well as resources allocated for the sake of development.

A good vision statement is one that will not only inspire staff members to work but also strengthen to face challenge. It should be meaningful and self-explanatory. It should be broad and enduring and should grab one heart. The vision always provides direction and contributes to library's identity and uniqueness. For developing vision statements library should focus on few questions such as:

- What is it that the library wants to achieve?
- How will we enhance the quality of life for those who use our services?
- What are the various hurdles customers find in library while using?
- What results are we seeking?

Attributes for Useful Vision Statement are:

Vision statement and mission statement are the backbone of any visualized change applied for the development of any institution. Attributes of the vision statement are as follows:

Clear: A vision statement should be clear. If it is short and smart it can be a part of one subconscious. Clear vision statement saves itself from ambiguity.

Appealing: It is very necessary to incorporate appealing word and word order in the vision statement. Appealing vision statement clears picture of the library.

Feasible: It involves the way of settings goals and objectives that must achieve the set goalmouth for the library and its staff members.

Meaning: The vision statement should have real meaning. It should not be ambiguous or reflect double meaning.

Measurable: The vision statement should contain simple languages which foresee once measurability and accountability. In developing a vision statement, a library may consider the following questions:

- Who are the library's primary customers?
- What are the library's priorities represented in the vision?
- What would the future look like if the goals were achieved and the vision is fulfilled?
- What are the library's greatest opportunities in the future?
- How will the library enhance the quality of the work culture for those who use its services and products?

Writing a Vision Statement:

The vision statement must portrait the institution set in future. It is answerable to the question "Where do we want to go? A vision statement projects future in terms that describe a highly desirable future. Following template may be used to create or update library's vision statement.

We seek to become..... for (Users).....

Use of Slogan:

Once the library has finalized its vision, then it is duty of the library to create a tagline or slogan which summarizes vision. It should be smart, short and memorable. The purpose of a slogan is to express the essence of the library's vision.

Suggested Vision & Mission Statement for Universities Knowledge Resource Centre

Every University has its own library, known as Knowledge Resource Centre. They have their collection and users as per their courses and surroundings. The suggested Mission and Vision Statement for University Knowledge Resource Centre is as follows.

Mission:

"The University Knowledge Resource Centre's mission is to provide comprehensive resources and services in support of the learning, teaching and research needs of its users."

To implement effective this mission, the library should commit to

- Providing a user-centered learning environment that delivers information and services to its users.
- Empowering users to locate, evaluate and use information available in various traditional and modern sources.

- Develop and maintain balanced and up to date collection.
- Establishing itself as a leader in knowledge management.
- Fostering a workplace culture where library staff are valued for their knowledge and contributions.

Vision:

“University Knowledge Resource Centre is committed to excellence and innovation in graduate, post graduate service, teaching, research and other scholarly activities.”

The library supports this commitment by:

- Identify the learning, teaching and research needs of library users.
- Create user friendly physical and virtual facilities for learning, teaching, study and research.
- Selecting, acquiring, organizing, preserving and providing access to library.
- Providing high-quality and valuable services.
- Innovatively using information and communication technology.
- Ensure the availability of the library collection by organizing and preserving of library resources.
- Identify the skills of the library staff members and provide opportunities to them for their professional development,
- Collaborate with other organizations to enrich research and learning.

Balanced Scorecard:

The Balanced Scorecard is a performance evaluation tool helping to face the various challenges and offers the solution for university libraries through its strategic management. For effective evaluation of library the balanced scorecard plays a significant role. To develop balanced scored it is necessary to review the mission and vision of the library. It has been observed that many libraries do not have their separate mission and vision statements.

Conclusion:

Library is heart of any organization or institution and is set as a nonprofit organization. A vision and mission statement shows the strategies of the library. Mission and Vision statement plays vital role in designing a balanced scorecard. It reflects working tendency of the library. It helps to attract the users towards the library and indirectly increases reading habit among the users. The profit of the library can be measured in the form of its satisfied users. It helps the library authority in decision making as well as applying new policy for the library. It also helps the staff members to know their task as well as set targets. It gives an identity to the library.

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The impact of Artificial Intelligence in libraries: A review

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➤ Abstract:

A library is a large repository of information, is undergoing a digital transformation. As libraries continue to evolve in the digital age, 2025 will see a strong focus on integrating cutting-edge technologies to enhance both operational efficiency and user experience. This paper explores the profound impact of Artificial Intelligence on libraries, unveiling its pivotal role in reshaping information access, management, and dissemination. Artificial Intelligence extends far beyond operational expansions and its hold the developmental power to revolutionize scholarly research and knowledge discovery. This paper review on impact of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries and Library services.

➤ Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Library and Library Services.

➤ Introduction:

The main basis of the development of life is education and the main foundation of that education is libraries, developed libraries play a vital role in strengthening education. Libraries have developed well all over the world, now e-books and all types of e-material are easily available everywhere through the internet. The need for digital and virtual libraries is constantly growing. Many higher education institutions in our country, even expensive private educational institutions, have well-developed libraries and are providing the best service to the readers. The government is also helping in the development of education and libraries, yet we are far behind in terms of advanced libraries according to the population and needs. In today's modern and digital era, technologically advanced resources are being used in libraries so that readers can avail better services and facilities in less time. The Artificial Intelligence revolt has just started, which has also affected libraries, that is, artificial intelligence is being used for the advancement of libraries. Artificial intelligence enhances and strengthens library services and protects reading materials. Some definitions of AI, Library and Library Services are below.

➤ Definitions:

1) Artificial Intelligence:

Artificial intelligence is the capability of computational systems to perform tasks typically associated with human intelligence, such as learning, reasoning, problem-solving, perception, and decision-making. It is a field of research in computer science that

develops and studies methods and software that enable machines to perceive their environment and use learning and intelligence to take actions that maximize their chances of achieving defined goals.

Artificial intelligence is the development of computer systems that can perform tasks that require human intelligence. These tasks include reasoning, problem solving, inference, speech recognition, and language comprehension, among others.

2) Library :

A library is a space dedicated to collection, preservation, and disseminating information. At its core, a library serves as a repository where books, journals, digital resources, and other materials are stored and made accessible to the readers.

A building, room or a organization that has a collection of books, documents, music and sometimes things such as tools or artwork for people to receive usually without any cost.

A library is a place of book collection. A library is an ancient social institution with a long history that is parallel to human culture. Books, readers, and library staff are the main components of a library. The nature of these components and the ideas about them has changed over time.

3) Library Services :

Library services are the various facilities and assistance provided to people using a library, including books, magazines, reference materials, internet facilities, reading rooms, and information retrieval.

Library services are services provided for the knowledge, research, and enrichment of readers. This service is very useful for the dissemination of information and social awareness.

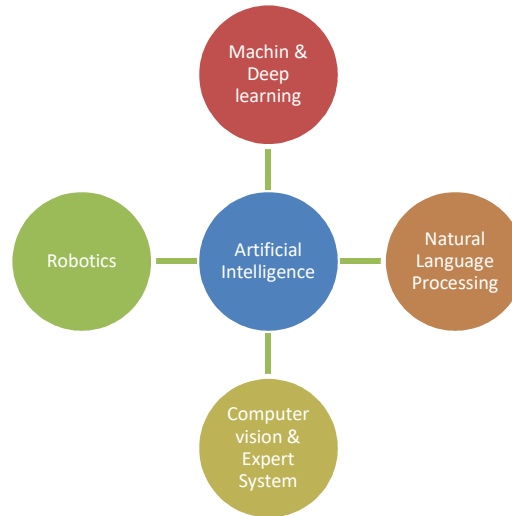
➤ Origins of Artificial Intelligence:

The concept of Artificial Intelligence has existed since ancient times, where legends tell of artificial creatures with magical qualities. However, the formal definition of Artificial Intelligence as an independent field of study began in the mid-20th century. The term “Artificial Intelligence” was first used by Joe McCarthy in 1956. He organized the Dartmouth Conference, which is considered to be the beginning of the field of Artificial Intelligence.

➤ Components of Artificial Intelligence :

The work of artificial intelligence is to take data, analyze it and give appropriate answers. This is mainly done through the branches of machine learning and deep learning. Whatever we search for something on Google, Google suggests related information to us - this is artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence is a technological system that enables computers to think

reason and take decisions like humans. It has several important components. Artificial intelligence is the capacity of machines to think reason and perform various tasks automatically. This includes Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Natural Language Processing, Robotics, Computer Vision, and Expert System.



Machine learning is learning based on experience. In this, the computer uses data to recognize patterns and make decisions. Deep learning is a subfield of machine learning in which neural networks are used to solve complex problems. Example: voice assistant. The goal of natural language processing is to enable computers to understand, parse, and otherwise use human language. Robots designed to use artificial intelligence can work independently and Computer science is the technology that gives a computer the ability to understand images and video. The Expert system is the most advanced system in the field. The computer has the ability to think logically and make decisions.

➤ **Artificial Intelligence Tools for Libraries :**

1. Open AI GPT: A natural language processing model for text-related tasks.
2. TensorFlow and PyTorch: Open-source frameworks for building and training machine learning models.
3. Amazon Recognition: Cloud-based service for image and video analysis.
4. IBM Watson Discovery: Platform for AI-powered search and analytics.
5. Library Discovery Systems: Incorporate machine learning algorithms for improved search relevance and recommendation accuracy.
6. Koha ILS: Open-source ILS supporting AI-based features.
7. LibraryThing: Social cataloging web application for book recommendations.

8. OCLC Wise: Cloud-based library services platform using AI for workflow automation and personalized user experiences.
9. Google Cloud Vision API: Machine learning-based image analysis tool.
10. Bibliotheca cloud Library: Future integration of AI-driven features for personalized book recommendations and user engagement.

➤ **Impact of Artificial Intelligence in libraries :**

The impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in libraries is becoming very significant and transformative. AI technology is bringing about new changes in library management, information discovery, service delivery, and user interaction.

1. Smart Search & Discovery :

Using AI, users can find the information they need more accurately and quickly. AI-powered algorithms go beyond simple keyword matching. They use Natural Language Processing (NLP) to investigate the context of your search and identify synonyms, related concepts, and even the sentiment behind your doubt. This leads to more relevant and accurate search results, saving you time and discomfort.

2. AI-based Chatbots and Assistant services :

Chatbots and virtual assistants powered by AI technologies provide patrons instant access to information and assistance, offering accessible and effective means of communication with library services. These AI-driven tools can answer basic queries, guide library policies and process, assist with research problems, and even facilitate transactions such as book reservations or renewals. By offering 24/7 support and automating routine checkout and check in, chatbots and virtual assistants enhance reader's satisfaction, less waiting timings, and expand the reach of library services beyond ancient operating hours.

3. Text-To-Speech Conversion :

Artificial Intelligence provide Text-To-Speech service to user want any information, Like books, articles, research papers and documents, to be transformed into audio formats. This AI Technology Enhances accessibility for individuals with visual impairments or learning disabilities, allow them to access and engage with library resources through auditory means.

4. Personalized Services :

Personalized service in libraries means providing services according to the needs and preferences of each user. Using AI, libraries can now analyze a user's reading history, search preferences, favorite topics, and even their search queries. AI systems provide personalized book recommendations based on that information. AI based Chatbots or virtual assistants Answers Personal questions. AI can also be used to provide personalized notification services. For

example, information about books, resources, or organized activities related to a user's field of study can be sent to them via personal email or app notifications.

5. Educational Initiatives and Training Programs :

Libraries are knowledge-rich centers that provide Educational support to students, researchers, Lecturers and practitioners, as well as a place to collect books. Libraries can use AI to analyze the search needs of their users and find them the right educational resources. Libraries are implementing educational initiatives and training programs to enable librarians and staff with the knowledge and skills to influence AI efficiently.

6. Digital Archive Management :

Digitization of traditional printed documents, manuscripts, reports, and other documents has become an important part of Digital Archive Management. Artificial Intelligence (AI) helps in every way in this entire process and makes digital collections more efficient, searchable and preserved. Libraries using Artificial Intelligence convert printed documents into computer-readable or digital formats using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology. Artificial Intelligence -based systems provide automatic metadata tagging. That is, they automatically identify and classify documents based on their content, such as subject, author, date, keywords, etc. Another important use of AI is in the preservation and threat identification of digital documents. Artificial Intelligence plays an important role in all aspects like digitization, classification, search, structure and protection.

7. AudioPen :

AudioPen can transcribe audio recordings for librarians, saving time and effort. This makes spoken content like interviews, lectures, and oral histories searchable and accessible for users.

8. Grammarly :

Librarians spend their days writing for patrons. Grammarly helps make sure that writing is polished and professional. By excluding embarrassing mistakes, we build trust that readers can rely on the information we provide.

9. Future Development and Potential :

The essence of AI in libraries is not static but continuously emerging. Future developments may include more advanced AI applications, such as enhanced suggestions systems, deeper integration of AI with other educational technologies, and further enhancements in automated content management. As AI technology progresses, its implicit to transform academic libraries will develop, offering even more opportunities to improve library services and support academic success.

10. Preserving Cultural Heritage :

The Protection of cultural heritage is very important for preserving the historical heritage of societies and for the continuation of cultural diversity. AI can analyze and restore damaged historical documents or photographs, ensuring their survival for future generations. Artificial intelligence technologies are revolutionizing the digitization and documentation of cultural heritage assets.

11. Breakdown Language Barriers :

Artificial Intelligence translation services can translate library resources into multiple languages, making information accessible to a wider audience. AI-powered translation technologies are transforming the way we communicate across verbal boundaries, breaking down barriers that have stood for renaissances.

➤ Conclusion :

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a system of various technical components. These components together enable computers to think, understand and act like humans. The use of AI in libraries is transforming library management, service delivery, and data collection. It is a extreme change in the way data is collected, classified and used. Through this technology, libraries can make their services more effective and can perform various tasks faster, which can effectively meet the changing needs of users in the age of technology.

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Library-Led Development: Strategic Framework for Inclusive Knowledge Access in India's Journey Towards 2047

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Abstract

India's vision of *Viksit Bharat by 2047* demands inclusive growth in every sector. Libraries, as knowledge institutions, have a unique potential to contribute to this goal by enabling equitable access to information, supporting digital literacy, fostering social inclusion, and acting as community hubs for learning. However, Indian libraries face infrastructural, policy, technological, and human resource challenges that hinder their full contribution. This paper proposes a strategic framework for library-led development that can enhance inclusive knowledge access. Drawing on existing literature, case, and policy initiatives, the framework outlines dimensions of infrastructure modernization, digital inclusion, policy & governance, capacity building, partnerships & community engagement, multilingual/multicultural content, and monitoring & evaluation.

Keywords

Libraries; Inclusive Knowledge Access; Digital Divide; Public Libraries; Library Policy; Community Libraries; India; 2047; Capacity Building.

Introduction

India has set ambitious socio-economic goals for 2047 (its centenary of independence), often encapsulated in the term *Viksit Bharat @ 2047*, which includes high literacy, equitable development, technological empowerment, and social inclusion. Access to knowledge and information is a foundational pillar of such development. Libraries — public, academic, community, school — are one of the oldest institutions for democratizing knowledge. They are well-placed to contribute to raising literacy, bridging divides, enabling lifelong learning, supporting governance and citizenship, and fostering innovation.

Libraries in India remain under-resourced, inadequately integrated with modern technologies, unevenly distributed, with gaps in policy and capacity. To realise their potential, there is need for a strategic framework that identifies the levers through which libraries can be strengthened to deliver inclusive knowledge access, aligned with the 2047 vision.

Literature Review

Several recent studies illuminate the current strengths and weaknesses in Indian libraries with respect to inclusive knowledge access.

- Sudhier & Barath (2023) conducted a study of the Kerala State Central Library, finding that public libraries play a role in bridging the digital divide, but many users are unaware of ICT and internet resources provided by libraries, and lack of ICT skills is a major impediment.

- “An Examination of the Role of Public Libraries Addressing Social Inclusion in India” (Nanjunda et al.) highlights that library services are not sufficiently reaching socially excluded groups due to lack of awareness, limited outreach, and staff training.
- The paper “Digital libraries for minor languages in India: frameworks for addressing absences in policy and governance” (Wadhwa, 2024) points out how digital libraries often under-represent minor / regional languages, which imposes a barrier to inclusive access.
- The “Public library revitalization in India: Hopes, challenges, and new visions” by Pyati (2009) analyses policy instruments such as those from the National Knowledge Commission and suggests that public libraries, if revitalized, can act as community information centres, yet face funding, governance, and infrastructure challenges.
- The Indian Public Library Movement (IPLM) has recent work on *Repurposing Public Library Spaces* to better match community needs, adding new services beyond traditional library functions.
- Community-led initiatives like READ India’s Community Library & Resource Centers (CLRCs) demonstrate how literacy, digital learning, and livelihood support can be integrated in rural library settings.

From these and other works, recurring themes emerge: digital divide, policy gaps, infrastructural deficits (both physical and technological), lack of multilingual content, limited capacity of staff, lack of awareness/public engagement, and governance issues.

Challenges

Before laying out the framework, it is essential to recognize key challenges that libraries must overcome:

1. Infrastructure & Technology Gaps

Many libraries still lack stable internet, computers, clean and safe physical space, modern cataloguing/automation, digital collections. Outdated buildings or poor lighting, furniture etc., limit usability.

2. Digital Divide & User Awareness

Even when digital services exist, many potential users do not know about them; others lack ICT-skills to use them. Rural, remote, marginalized communities are especially disadvantaged.

3. Policy, Governance & Funding Constraints

Absence of uniform national legislation for libraries; variation across states in laws, budgeting, library policy. Limited funds for both maintenance and innovation.

4. Multilingual and Cultural Relevance

Many digital resources are in dominant languages; minority languages under-represented; cultural heritage collections often not digitized.

5. Human Resource & Capacity Building

Library staff often lack training in ICT, digital librarianship, community outreach, service innovation, multilingual librarianship.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation & Impact Assessment

Scant data on how library services affect learning outcomes, employment, social inclusion etc. Lack of standardized metrics.

7. Partnerships and Community Engagement Weaknesses

In many cases, libraries are not well tied in with other stakeholders — educational institutions, local government, NGOs, community groups — limiting their reach and effectiveness.

Strategic Framework for Inclusive Knowledge Access

To address these challenges and steer libraries toward contributing meaningfully to *Viksit Bharat @ 2047*, the following multi-dimensional strategic framework is proposed. These dimensions are interlinked, and progress in one supports other.

Dimension	Objectives	Key Strategies / Actions
Infrastructure & Technological Modernization	Ensure libraries have the physical, digital, and technological resources needed to serve modern knowledge needs.	• Upgrade physical facilities (lighting, furniture, access, safety) • Establish reliable broadband / internet connectivity, power backup. • Automate library catalogues; adopt integrated library systems (ILS). • Develop/digitize collections; provide e-books, digital archives. • Ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities.
Digital Inclusion & Awareness	Ensure that all segments of society can access, use, and benefit from digital and library services.	• Conduct outreach and awareness campaigns in rural and marginalized communities. • Provide training programs for digital literacy and library usage. • Set up mobile/digital kiosks or travelling libraries in remote areas. • Multilingual interfaces and content.
Policy, Governance & Funding	Create a supportive policy environment, sustainable financing, legal framework.	• Push for national/library legislation that ensures minimum standards for public libraries. • Increased government funding and grants, including from central & state levels. • Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs); CSR involvement. • Regulatory support for open access, digitization norms, copyright for indigenous content.
Capacity Building & Human Resources	Develop skilled staff in modern librarianship and community engagement.	• Training programs in digital librarianship, outreach, management. • Continuous professional development.

Dimension	Objectives	Key Strategies / Actions
		€ Incentives for innovation (awards, recognition). Recruitment of staff with multilingual and technical competencies.
Multilingual / Multicultural Content & Heritage Preservation	Make content culturally relevant and accessible; preserve heritage.	€ Digitization of local, regional, minority language works. € Community-contributed content; crowdsourcing translations. € Collaboration with universities, heritage bodies. € Promote inclusive curricula and reading stock that reflects diversity.
Community Engagement, Partnerships & Service Innovation	Libraries as community centres; serve broader social, educational, developmental functions.	€ Involve communities in co-designing library services. Link with schools, adult education, health, livelihood programmes. € Introduce novel services: makerspaces, learning labs, career counselling, events. € Encourage library networks and consortia for sharing resources.
Monitoring, Evaluation & Impact Assessment	Track whether library interventions are effective; gather data to guide improvement.	€ Define metrics: usage statistics, learning outcomes, digital adoption, user satisfaction, equity (rural vs urban; gender; marginalized groups). € Periodic evaluation and feedback mechanisms. € Use data to inform policy, allocate resources, replicate best practices.

Case Examples Illustrating Framework Components

To ground this strategic framework, here are examples of how some dimensions are being addressed in India already.

- € **Kerala State Central Library:** A study showed that users are under-aware of ICT/internet services; this reflects dimensions 1 and 2. The library offers e-resources; but outreach & training need strengthening.
- € **READ India's CLRCs:** Exemplary in rural areas combining literacy, digital access, enterprise & community engagement. Show's success in dimensions 2, 6, and 5.
- € **Indian Public Library Movement (IPLM) / NAASCOM-supported work:** Repurposing public library spaces, adding services, engaging community, using ICT. Good illustration of dimensions 1, 4, 6.
- € **Digital libraries for minor languages** (Wadhwa, 2024): Addresses dimension 5 (multilingual content), policy, and cultural inclusion

Strategic Recommendations & Roadmap

Based on the framework, below is a suggested roadmap for implementation over short-, medium-, and long-term horizons toward 2047.

Timeframe	Key Activities
Short Term (1-3 years)	• Audit existing public / community / academic libraries to assess gaps (infrastructure, tech, staff). • Begin pilot projects in selected districts to implement integrated digital services, multilingual content, digital literacy programs. • Strengthen policy dialogues for a national public library legislation. • Capacity building workshops for librarians in ICT, outreach, managing digital content. • Engage communities to survey needs; launch awareness campaigns.
Medium Term (4-10 years)	• Scale up digital infrastructure across all districts, provide broadband connectivity to all public libraries. • Establish library networks and resource sharing consortia, perhaps via INFLIBNET or central/state library authorities. • Develop and deploy multilingual digital libraries, local heritage archives. • Expand mobile/traveling library services to remote/hilly/reach-poor areas. Formalize metrics and systems for evaluation; publish periodic reports on library contribution to learning, inclusion.
Long Term (more than 10 years, up to 2047)	• Libraries fully integrated into national education, lifelong learning, skill development, health & governance ecosystems. • Sustainable funding models: recurring governmental allocations, PPPs, community contributions. • Legislative framework in place; uniform minimum standards across states; national oversight with room for local innovation. • High literacy and information literacy across all demographics; use of libraries as innovation / maker hubs; active participation in global knowledge networks. • Cultural & linguistic diversity fully represented; heritage preservation digitally and physically.

Expected Outcomes & Impacts

If the strategic framework is adopted and implemented effectively, expected outcomes by 2047 include:

- Significantly reduced digital divide: more equitable access to internet and information across rural/urban, gender, socioeconomic lines.
- Improved literacy, especially functional and digital literacy; stronger lifelong learning culture.
- Enhanced social inclusion: marginalized, minority, remote populations gaining access to information and services.
- Boost to education, research, innovation: libraries supporting academic & vocational pathways.
- Stronger civic participation and awareness: libraries help in access to governance services, awareness programs, etc.
- Preservation and flourishing of regional languages, culture, making India's cultural heritage accessible to younger generations.

Conclusion

Libraries hold immense promise in that regard, but only if they evolve: modernizing infrastructure, embracing digital inclusion, adapting policy and funding, empowering staff, engaging communities, preserving cultural and linguistic diversity, and building robust evaluation mechanisms.

The strategic framework laid out here provides a roadmap for transformation. Through coordinated efforts, libraries can become engines of inclusive development, helping India reach its goals of literacy, equity, innovation, and social well-being by 2047. Future research should explore implementation models, cost-effectiveness, comparative case studies across states, and the impact of library interventions on educational and socio-economic outcomes.

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Exploring ICT in Professional Sustainable Development: Review of Related Studies

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Abstract

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays a vital role in every sector of modern society, particularly in education, research, business, agriculture, and professional development. A few decades ago, people mainly depended on print sources to meet their information needs. Today, ICT provides fast and wide access to information from anywhere at any time. It is not restricted to one discipline but has become a universal subject that supports professional growth and sustainable development. With the rapid growth of ICT tools, professionals across fields are adopting new practices to improve their work, learning, and efficiency. This article presents a literature review on the use of ICT for professional sustainable development. It highlights how ICT influences education, research, agriculture, banking, law, business, teaching, and many other professions. It also explores the attitudes, awareness, and satisfaction levels of professionals towards ICT. The findings show that ICT has transformed professional practices and created opportunities for lifelong learning and sustainable progress.

Keywords: ICT, Profession, Sustainable Development, Information Access, Professional Growth

Introduction

In the 21st century, ICT has emerged as one of the most powerful tools for improving access to knowledge and supporting sustainable development. Schools, colleges, universities, businesses, and other organizations increasingly depend on ICT for effective communication, teaching, training, and service delivery. Earlier, professionals relied mainly on books, print journals, and physical libraries. Today, ICT provides access to e-books, e-journals, databases, institutional repositories, online courses, and digital classrooms.

Global education systems are also changing with ICT adoption. Many countries are reshaping their policies to integrate ICT in teaching, learning, and administration. The use of ICT has also influenced the labor market, creating new professions and reshaping traditional jobs. As P. Tynjala (2006) observed, technology-based learning environments help close the gap between learning and working by providing simulated realities and interactive platforms.

With ICT, education has introduced new terms and practices such as e-learning, virtual classrooms, online courses, digital libraries, video conferencing, webinars, and mobile learning. These technologies not only support students but also empower professionals by providing continuous opportunities for learning and skill development. Sustainable professional growth today depends greatly on how effectively ICT is integrated into daily practices.

This paper reviews the existing literature on the use of ICT for professional sustainable development. It aims to explore the awareness, attitudes, impact, and satisfaction levels of professionals across different fields, and to show how ICT helps in achieving professional efficiency and long-term development.

ICT and Professional Sustainable Development

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

ICT refers to digital tools and systems that support the gathering, processing, storing, transmitting, and sharing of information. It includes computers, the internet, telecommunication systems, multimedia, and software applications. ICT combines hardware and software technologies to enable easy and fast access to information. According to Wikipedia (2020), ICT extends beyond information technology (IT) by including telecommunications, enterprise systems, and audiovisual tools that support communication and information management.

Professional

A professional is a person engaged in a specialized occupation that requires training, education, and skills. According to Wikipedia (2020), professionals earn their living from a specific activity and must have expertise in their field. For sustainable development, professionals need to constantly update their knowledge and skills. ICT provides tools for lifelong learning, collaboration, and access to updated information.

Sustainable Development

The concept of sustainable development is defined as growth that meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Acconia, 2020). It focuses on balancing economic, environmental, and social well-being. ICT plays a role here by making knowledge available, reducing barriers to communication, and supporting innovation that leads to long-term professional and social growth.

Literature Review

ICT Use in Research and Science

Dzandu and Dadzie (2012) studied research officers in six institutes of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). They found that ICT services positively impacted research work. Most officers were aware of ICT facilities and used them mainly for research activities. Training and skill development programs improved their ability to use ICT effectively. Mohammad Aqil and Parvez (2011) studied postgraduate students and research scholars in Aligarh Muslim University. They found that the internet was widely used for research, updating knowledge, and accessing online journals. J-Gateway and e-resources were highly popular. Bipin

Bihari Sethi (2011) studied life scientists and observed that e-resources such as e-journals and e-books were essential for updating knowledge. Search engines like Google were highly used.

ICT in Distance and Higher Education

Frimpong Kwapong (2009) examined ICT in distance learning. Students accessed ICT at local centers and used the internet, email, and websites for learning. Both male and female learners were able to benefit. Thanuskodi (2011) studied engineering faculty members and found they had positive attitudes towards ICT. They depended heavily on e-resources for teaching and research. Vrana (2011) focused on students of humanities and social sciences in Zagreb. ICT was seen as a vital tool in education, and students understood both its advantages and challenges. Khan and Bhatti (2011) studied students in education faculties. They regularly used ICT for learning despite challenges like slow internet speed and lack of connectivity. Owolabi (2012) studied Nigerian university faculty members and found they used electronic resources widely for research, teaching, and professional development. Kadli and Kumbar (2011) studied commerce faculty in Mumbai and found that ICT literacy programs and infrastructure development were essential for supporting teaching and research.

ICT in Law and Business

Owoeye (2011) examined lawyers in Nigeria. ICT adoption was necessary for fast access to legal information. The study suggested government support for ICT infrastructure, steady power supply, and reduced tariffs on ICT equipment. Taiwo and Ague (2016) studied accounting systems. They found ICT had significant impacts on accounting and overall organizational performance. ICT improved efficiency, transparency, and record management. Dabwor (2017) studied ICT in banking. ICT adoption improved competitiveness, customer service, and networking. Training of staff was recommended for better results.

ICT in Agriculture and Rural Professions

Achugbue and Anie (2011) studied rural female farmers in Nigeria. ICT, especially internet access, improved farming practices. Farmers learned about new crops, formed cooperative societies, and accessed information from the Ministry of Agriculture. Aderibigbe (2012) studied agricultural graduate students in Nigeria and found they were aware of ICT resources and considered them very useful for research and learning.

ICT in Teaching and Education Professions

Thakral (2015) studied teachers and concluded ICT was essential for professional development. Teachers used ICT for training, preparing presentations, and providing quality

learning to students. ICT helped remove barriers of time and space, allowing teachers to grow professionally.

ICT in Health Professions

ICT also plays a vital role in healthcare. Doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers use ICT for patient management, telemedicine, electronic health records, and medical research. ICT-based systems improve diagnosis, reduce errors, and support professional training through online courses and simulations.

ICT in Library and Information Science

Quadri (2012) studied information professionals and found those with ICT skills were more effective in using e-resources. Libraries now provide digital services, institutional repositories, e-journals, and subject gateways. ICT has transformed library services and the role of librarians in supporting professional development.

ICT in Media and Communication

Journalists and media professionals use ICT for information gathering, news production, and broadcasting. Social media platforms, online publishing, and digital editing tools have become central to their profession. ICT enables them to reach wider audiences and adapt to the fast pace of information flow.

ICT in IT and Corporate Professions

IT professionals themselves constantly update skills through online platforms, coding repositories, and professional networks. Corporate managers use ICT for decision-making, communication, and sustainable business growth. ICT-based tools such as project management software, cloud systems, and AI applications support organizational sustainability.

Discussion

The reviewed studies clearly show that ICT has become a backbone of professional development in almost all sectors. From education and research to law, agriculture, business, banking, health, and media, ICT adoption is seen as essential for improving work quality, efficiency, and global competitiveness.

However, challenges remain. Lack of infrastructure, poor internet connectivity, high costs, and limited ICT training affect adoption, especially in developing countries. Awareness programs, ICT literacy, and government support are necessary for wider adoption.

Professionals generally express positive attitudes towards ICT. They are aware of its benefits and most are satisfied with its impact on their work. ICT not only supports professional efficiency but also ensures long-term sustainable development by promoting innovation, collaboration, and continuous learning.

Conclusion

This literature review highlights that ICT is a key driver of professional sustainable development. Professionals across diverse fields such as teachers, researchers, engineers, farmers, lawyers, bankers, health workers, librarians, and media experts benefit from ICT adoption. It provides access to updated knowledge, improves communication, and supports professional efficiency. The findings suggest that ICT improves satisfaction, creates new opportunities, and enhances lifelong learning. Policymakers, institutions, and organizations must encourage ICT training, infrastructure development, and digital literacy programs. Sustainable professional development is possible only when ICT is fully integrated into professional practices.

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Commentary on Integrating Objects of Maharashtra Public Universities Act- 2016, in Academic Libraries in Maharashtra.

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Abstract:

In the context of the evolving landscape of higher education and global competence, the draft of the Maharashtra Public Universities Act-2011 highlighted and proposed positive changes in academic libraries in Maharashtra to prepare youth for global competence. In 2016, the Maharashtra state assembly enacted the final draft of the act, which brought all 11 non-agricultural public universities in Maharashtra and their affiliated colleges under its jurisdiction. The Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016, outlines the fundamental eighteen objectives in Chapter II, aiming to enhance the quality of higher education in the state. These objectives also serve as guiding principles for academic libraries in the state, which are governed by the act. The article systematically explores the key values that are often overlooked when adopting positive changes aligned with these objectives in academic libraries.

Keywords: The Draft of Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2011, the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016, and the Objectives of the University. Transition in Academic Libraries, Challenges Faced by Academic Libraries, and Core Values for Libraries.

Introduction:

Maharashtra has an extensive and rich history of higher education, with both conventional and modern influences. The state hosts a variety of universities, including public, private, and dedicated institutions. University acts have played a crucial role in shaping the governance and regulation of the higher education sector in Maharashtra. To bring about fundamental change in higher education within the state, the Maharashtra government established various committees, such as the Agrawal committee, Nigavekar committee, Takwale committee, and Kakodkar committee. Considering the recommendations made by these committees, the new Public Universities Act was enacted in 2016. Building on the previous Act of 1994, this legislation introduced new essential reforms. Pioneering the eighteen objects of the university acts as a guiding principle for academic libraries, and implementing these objects will revolutionise the entire landscape of academic libraries in Maharashtra. Although primarily designed for universities, these objects are significantly helpful in bringing about substantial changes in the academic working system and reshaping academic libraries to align with the evolving nature of higher education on a global platform. Fiels (2013) identified the need for change in academic libraries, arguing that “The traditional library was an inactive provider of information, reacting to community information needs, but today the library must be proactive and it must engage its community” (p. 6). The Maharashtra Public Universities Act 2016 explicitly incorporated these objectives, focusing on “disseminate, create and preserve knowledge and understanding by teaching, research and development, skill development, training and education, extension and service and by effective demonstration and

influence of its corporate life on society in general”. The specific objectives are outlined in the table below, illustrating their role in reshaping academic libraries for the new epoch.

The Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 (MPUA-2016) represents a significant reform in the governance and operation of higher education institutions within the state. Its primary objective is to transform universities into dynamic centres of learning, innovation, and societal engagement. In this context, university libraries—referred to as Knowledge Resource Centres (KRCs)—are envisioned to play a pivotal role. Incorporating the objectives of the Act into academic libraries presents both challenges and opportunities, necessitating their evolution from traditional repositories of books to dynamic hubs of knowledge.

Sr. No	Objects of the University	Guiding value for Libraries
1	Carry out its responsibility of creation, preservation and dissemination of Knowledge.	Knowledge Creation and Knowledge Transfer.
2	Promote discipline and the spirit of intellectual inquiry, and dedicate itself as a fearless academic community to the sustained pursuit of excellence.	Promotion of Research.
3	Encourage individuality and diversity within a climate of tolerance and mutual understanding.	Fulfilling the diversified user needs.
4	promote freedom, secularism, equality, and social justice as enshrined in the Constitution of India, and to be a catalyst in patriotic socio-economic transformation by promoting basic attitudes and values of essence to national development;	Value sensitisation among the users
5	Promote a conducive environment for ensuring social harmony, coexistence, integral humanism and upliftment of the poorest of the poor;	Creating a Learning Ambience at Libraries
6	Extend the benefits of knowledge and skills for the development of individuals and society by associating the university closely with local, regional and national problems of development;	Reaching the end users.
7	Carry out social responsibility as an informed and objective critic, to identify and cultivate talent, to train the right kind of leadership in all walks of life and to help the younger generation to develop proper attitudes, interests and values;	Proper User Orientation

8	Promote equitable distribution of teaching, learning, training and other support services facilities of higher education.	Equitable Access
9	Provide for efficient and responsive administration, scientific and technology management, and develop the organisation of teaching, learning, training, research, and extension.	Competent leadership is required to lead teaching and learning activities.
10	Devise motivational systems to ensure that individual cognitive abilities are not constrained, but rather the innovative spirit and desire to make an actual contribution and realise self-achievement are nurtured.	User-centric services and SDI
11	Promote the acquisition of knowledge in a rapidly developing and changing society and to continually offer opportunities for upgrading knowledge, training and skills in the context of innovations, research and discovery in all fields of human endeavour by developing a higher educational network with the use of modern communication media, information and communication technology and other emerging and future technologies appropriate for a learning society.	Integration of ICT in the working system and collection development.
12	Promote national integration and fraternity, preserve cultural heritage, and inculcate respect for the diverse religions and cultures of India through the study of various religions, literature, history, science, art, civilisations, and cultures.	Instilling human values through cultural heritage.
13	Develop a work culture and promote the dignity of labour through applied components in the syllabi.	Promotion of work culture.
14	Build up financial self-sufficiency by undertaking academic teaching, training, and allied programmes, research and development activities for public and private industries, Governmental organisations at local, regional, national, and global levels, and resource-generative services cost-effectively.	Initiative for Resource Generation.
15	Promote better interaction and coordination among different university institutions and colleges within the university, as well as with other universities in the State, region, nation, and globally, through all available means to enhance the	Promotes Linkages for Knowledge Sharing

	governance of the university and its higher education facilities.	
16	Generate and promote a sense of self-respect and dignity amongst the weaker sections of society.	Staff Training and continuous improvement.
17	To promote gender equality and sensitivity in society.	Open access to knowledge
18	Strive to promote competitive merit and excellence as the sole guiding criterion in all academic and other matters relating to students.	Quality Assurance in Services

Objects of the Act Applicable to Libraries- Short Description:

The MPUA-2016 highlights several key objectives that directly or indirectly influence university libraries as follows;

1. Advancing quality and excellence in higher education and research.
2. Transforming libraries into Knowledge Resource Centres to ensure effortless access to knowledge.
3. Utilising ICT, digitisation, and e-resources to create globally connected universities.
4. Skill development, innovation, and entrepreneurship support through knowledge access.
5. Equity and inclusivity in education, ensuring resources are accessible to all.
6. Enhancing relationships with industry and society through research and extension activities.
7. Transparency and accountability in university governance, including resource allocation.

Incorporating the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016, Objects in Academic Libraries:

1. University Library's transformation into Knowledge Resource Centre (KRC)

Under the Act, libraries are regarded as Knowledge Resource Centres, where they actively promote knowledge creation and sharing, rather than merely holding books. Libraries must provide:

- Access to print and digital collections.
- Repositories for institutional research outputs.
- Spaces for collaborative learning and innovation.

2. Integration of ICT-Enabled Services.

The mandate of the Act aligns with digitisation, automation, and e-resources integration. Academic libraries must strengthen:

- € Institutional repositories and digital archives.
- € Remote access to databases, journals, and e-books.
- € Library management systems integrated with university ERP platforms.

3. Promotion of Research and Innovation.

Libraries must become knowledge enablers for research and incubation activities by:

- € Offering data support, bibliometric services, and plagiarism detection tools.
- € Creating research commons and innovation labs.
- € Assisting in patent searches, intellectual property awareness, and industry-oriented resources.

4. Confirming Impartiality and Inclusivity

In line with the Act, academic libraries should work towards:

- € Developing resources in regional languages alongside English.
- € Offering inclusive services for differently-abled students.
- € Strengthening outreach to rural and socio-economically disadvantaged learners.

5. Establishment Linkages for Knowledge Sharing.

Libraries can contribute by:

- € Hosting community engagement programs, exhibitions, and public lectures.
- € Curating knowledge resources that address local and regional issues, particularly those relevant to Maharashtra's development.
- € Supporting lifelong learning and extension activities.

6. Governance policy, Transparency, and Accountability.

The Act calls for accountable governance. Libraries must:

- € Adopt transparent acquisition policies.
- € Encourage open access initiatives.
- € Regularly evaluate services through user feedback and quality benchmarks.

Action to be taken:

To ensure effective integration of the Act's objectives within academic libraries:

- € Capacity building of library staff through ICT and research training is essential.
- € Collaborative networks among university libraries in Maharashtra should be strengthened for resource sharing.
- € Policy-level support for adequate funding and modernisation of KRCs is needed.
- € User-centric innovations such as mobile library services, digital literacy programs, and AI-enabled search tools should be encouraged.

Discussion:

The Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016, emphasises the expected shift of Maharashtra's higher education system towards attaining excellence, which is why these objectives have been forwarded to achieve success in that direction. These objects have carried forward the valuable guidelines which match the academic library's conception of the development process. The draft of the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2011, also explains the vision for providing higher education in Maharashtra state, given the subtitle as "Pathway for transforming higher education into a socio-economic development force".³

The traditional image of academic libraries is gradually transforming, and they are currently in a transitional phase, adapting to changes in their operational systems, user services, staff training, collection development, and technological integration. However, the process of these changes is not without difficulties, as academic libraries face various challenges. The data gathered through the questionnaire, designed to collect the Knowledge Resource Centre in public universities in Maharashtra, revealed the director's views about the challenges facing the Knowledge Resource Centre, as listed below;

- Infrastructural and Digital Concerns
- Financial Constraint
- Recruitment-Related Concerns
- Policy Related Concerns
- Human Resource Development Linked Issues
- Governance And Planning Associated Issues
- Traditional Mindset

Conclusion:

Academic libraries face challenges in fulfilling the key definitions and objectives set by the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016. Despite issues with the expected transition in the overall system of academic libraries, there are glimmers of hope for progress in the coming days, as the Indian government has envisioned the mission India@2047 for a developed nation, accompanied by significant changes in higher education.

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A Review of Ten Free AI Tools and Its Applications in Education

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Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping education at an unprecedented pace. The emergence of user-friendly, free AI tools has created new opportunities for students, teachers, and researchers to improve learning and teaching experiences. These tools simplify complex tasks, enhance productivity, and promote creativity. This paper reviews ten widely used free AI tools—ChatGPT, Grammarly, Quillbot, Canva, Google Bard/Gemini, Slides AI, Sci Space, Perplexity AI, Eduaide.AI, and TLDV—highlighting their educational applications with practical illustrations. The review suggests that free AI tools contribute to equitable access to quality education, help in overcoming resource constraints, and support sustainable learning practices.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Education, Free AI Tools, Teaching, Learning, Research.

Introduction

The 21st century has witnessed rapid advances in technology, with Artificial Intelligence (AI) emerging as one of the most influential developments. In education, AI is no longer limited to experimental use; it has become an essential part of how knowledge is created, delivered, and evaluated. Educators increasingly adopt AI-based platforms to design lessons, assess student progress, and manage classroom activities. At the same time, learners make use of AI to understand complex topics, organize their assignments, and prepare academic projects.

A notable aspect of this transformation is the availability of many AI tools at no cost. Free access helps bridge the digital divide by enabling both teachers and students in resource-limited contexts to take advantage of advanced technologies. Applications such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, and Canva are now widely used in academic settings, assisting with everyday tasks while also encouraging creativity and critical thinking.

This paper reviews ten freely available AI tools and examines their applications in education. Through an analysis of their functions, practical examples, and benefits, the study highlights the role of AI in making education more accessible, efficient and innovative.

Objectives

The study is guided by the following objectives:

1. To identify free AI tools that has educational value.
2. To explore their practical applications in teaching, learning, and research.
3. To illustrate how these tools enhance efficiency and creativity.
4. To reflect on the contribution of free AI tools to sustainable and inclusive education.

Literature Review

AI in education has been widely studied in recent years. Holmes et al. (2019) emphasize that AI enables adaptive learning environments where teaching can be tailored to the needs of individual students. UNESCO (2021) notes that AI has the potential to promote inclusive education by addressing barriers to learning. Similarly, Dwivedi et al. (2021) observe that AI transforms educational systems by streamlining processes and increasing interactivity.

Free AI tools deserve special attention because of their accessibility. According to Zawacki-Richter et al. (2019), freely available applications make advanced technologies available even to those who cannot afford premium services. Chen et al. (2020) add that AI-based platforms increase efficiency by offering instant feedback and assistance.

In this context, the following sections provide a focused review of ten free AI tools and their role in education.

Review of Selected Free AI Tools

1. ChatGPT (OpenAI)

ChatGPT is a conversational AI platform that allows users to interact with information in natural language. For example, if a student asks, “*What is philosophy?*” the tool explains: “*Philosophy is the study of fundamental questions about existence, knowledge, values, reason, and language. The term comes from the Greek word ‘philosophia,’ meaning love of wisdom.*”

Educational relevance:

- Explains difficult topics in simple terms.
- Supports assignments and projects.
- Offers explanations in multiple languages.

2. Grammarly

Grammarly is a writing support tool that checks grammar, spelling, and clarity. For instance, the incorrect sentence “*He go to school every day*” is instantly corrected to “*He goes to school every day.*”

Educational relevance:

- Improves academic writing.
- Supports preparation of reports and dissertations.
- Builds confidence in English communication.

3. Quillbot

Quillbot helps with paraphrasing, summarizing, and rephrasing. For example, the sentence “*Technology has changed education in many ways*” can be restated as “*Education has been transformed in several ways by technology.*”

Educational relevance:

- Reduces the risk of plagiarism.
- Assists with paraphrasing in research writing.
- Produces clear summaries of lengthy texts.

4. Canva (AI Design Tool)

Canva enables quick design of visually appealing presentations, posters, and infographics. A student preparing a seminar on “Pollution Awareness” can select templates and use AI-powered features to create a professional presentation in minutes.

Educational relevance:

- Strengthens visual learning.
- Supports creative projects and posters.
- Encourages innovation in classroom presentations.

5. Google Bard / Gemini

Gemini (formerly Bard) is a generative AI search assistant that provides updated information. For instance, a teacher researching “*Digital Education in Rural India*” can quickly gather relevant facts and references from trusted sources.

Educational relevance:

- Provides up-to-date information for assignments.
- Helps in lesson planning and research writing.
- Simplifies information gathering.

6. SlidesAI

SlidesAI generates presentation slides directly from text. For example, if a student pastes an essay on “*The Importance of Reading Habits*,” the tool produces a structured presentation with bullet points.

Educational relevance:

- Saves preparation time.
- Converts text-heavy content into visual slides.
- Improves presentation skills.

7. SciSpace (formerly Typeset.io)

SciSpace simplifies research by explaining complex papers. Uploading an article on “Machine Learning in Education” allows the tool to highlight main points and provide simplified explanations.

Educational relevance:

- Helps students interpret technical literature.
- Supports literature reviews.
- Encourages deeper engagement with scholarly articles.

8. Perplexity AI

Perplexity AI answers questions with concise explanations and references. When asked “*What are the benefits of online learning in India?*” it provides key points with links to supporting sources.

Educational relevance:

- Encourages fact-based learning.
- Provides reliable sources for citations.
- Helps in preparing evidence-based assignments.

9. Eduaide.AI

Eduaide.AI is designed specifically for teachers. For example, a history teacher preparing questions on “*Grade 9 – Shivaji Maharaj*” can generate multiple-choice and descriptive questions within seconds.

Educational relevance:

- Simplifies assessment preparation.
- Assists in designing lesson plans.
- Reduces workload for educators.

10. TLDV (Too Long Didn't View)

TLDV summarizes long online meetings or lectures. A one-hour recorded Zoom session, for example, is condensed into a time-stamped summary like: “00:15 – Topic Introduction; 00:40 – Case Study Discussion.”

Educational relevance:

- Helps students revise lectures quickly.
- Saves time by highlighting main points.
- Supports exam preparation.

Discussion

The analysis of these tools demonstrates that AI is not only reshaping professional education but also making it more inclusive. Tools like ChatGPT and Gemini enhance knowledge acquisition, Grammarly and Quillbot refine writing, Canva and SlidesAI stimulate creativity, while SciSpace and Perplexity AI strengthen research practices. Eduaide.AI and TLDV directly address teaching and classroom management needs.

These tools are particularly significant for students in rural and low-resource environments, as they eliminate financial barriers while ensuring access to modern educational support. At the same time, challenges such as over-dependence on AI, reduced critical thinking, and ethical concerns about plagiarism must be carefully addressed. Teachers should guide students to use AI responsibly and critically.

Conclusion

Free AI tools have established themselves as indispensable resources in today's educational landscape. They enhance efficiency, support creativity, and broaden access to quality education. The review of ten tools highlights their diverse applications across learning, teaching, and research. By using these tools responsibly, both students and educators can achieve more effective outcomes.

Policymakers, institutions, and teachers should encourage the integration of AI tools while also emphasizing ethical practices and critical thinking. If used wisely, free AI resources can help build a more equitable, sustainable, and future-ready education system.

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Scientific Research in Information Systems

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Abstract

Information Systems (IS) has emerged as a multidisciplinary field that bridges business, technology, social sciences, and organizational studies. As digitalization intensifies, scientific research in IS is crucial for understanding, designing, and evaluating systems that support decision-making, innovation, and societal change. This article reviews the nature, methods, challenges, and current trends of scientific research in Information Systems. Key topics include the philosophical foundations of IS as a science, different research paradigms, theory building, publication practices, ethical concerns, and emerging frontiers such as data quality, citizen science, ontology in research information systems, and information quality management. By synthesizing literature, this article identifies gaps and proposes directions for future work.

Keywords

Information Systems; Scientific Research; Research Methods; Theory Building; Design Science; Ethics; Data Quality; Emerging Trends

1. Introduction

Information Systems (IS) research deals with both technical systems (hardware, software, networks) and socio-organizational systems (people, processes, institutions). It is inherently multidisciplinary, drawing on computer science, management, psychology, sociology, business studies, and other fields. The acceleration of digital technologies—big data, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things—places IS research at the forefront of understanding and shaping how societies operate.

Scientific research in IS involves clarifying what constitutes valid knowledge in this domain: how to pose good research questions, how to collect and analyze data, how theories are developed and evaluated, and how the results can be published and used.

This article reviews the core foundations of IS research, prevailing methods and paradigms, challenges, and recent trends. It aims to give a structured view of the state of scientific research in IS and suggestions for budding and established researchers.

2. Philosophical Foundations & Nature of IS as a Science

Before discussing methods and practices, it is important to consider the philosophical foundations of IS research. Key aspects include:

- **Ontology and Epistemology:** IS research must clarify what kinds of entities are studied (e.g., systems, organizations, individuals) and what counts as valid knowledge (i.e., what is known, how we know it).
- **Research as a Science:** Recker (2021) discusses core characteristics of scientific products: theory, evidence, measurement, and key principles such as replicability, precision, falsification, independence, etc.
- **Paradigms of Inquiry:** Positivism, interpretivism, critical theory, pragmatism all play roles in IS research. The choice of paradigm affects the kinds of research questions, methods, and interpretations.

- **Theory Building:** Theory is central in IS research—it not only provides explanation but also guides the design of systems and the assessment of their impacts. Recker’s work emphasizes theorising as a phase in the research process.

3. Research Methods and Paradigms

- **Quantitative Methods:** Surveys, experiments, econometric modeling. These are useful for hypothesis testing, generalizability, statistical inference.
- **Qualitative Methods:** Case studies, grounded theory, ethnography, interviews, action research. Used for exploratory research, understanding human behavior, meanings, context.
- **Design Science:** Focused on artifact creation—design, development, evaluation of systems. Integration of building and evaluation. It has become increasingly prominent in IS research.
- **Computational Methods:** Simulation, data mining, machine learning, analytics. As IS involves large datasets, computational approaches help in modeling, prediction, pattern recognition.
- **Mixed Methods:** Combining quantitative and qualitative to leverage strengths of both. Recker’s *Scientific Research in Information Systems* addresses these methods in detail, including methodological trade-offs, guidance on research design, and suggestions for properly combining methods

4. Planning Research, Theorising, and Research Design

Good scientific research in IS goes beyond picking a method—it involves careful planning and theory.

- **Identifying Research Questions:** Questions should be novel, grounded in literature, and address gaps. They can be exploratory (“how” or “why”) or explanatory (“what is the effect of...”).
- **Theorising:** Theory-building includes identifying constructs, relationships, boundary conditions. Recker emphasizes different strategies (derivation, induction, abduction).
- **Research Design:** Choosing the paradigm, deciding sample, data collection methods, measurement validity and reliability, ensuring internal and external validity.
- **Publication Planning:** Deciding where to publish, structuring articles, reviewing and responding to peer feedback. Ethical issues such as authorship, conflict of interest, data integrity also are part of good practice.

5. Publishing Practices and Ethical Considerations

Publishing is not just dissemination—it is part of the process of scientific validation.

- Peer review norms, journal vs conference publications in IS, differences across subfields (e.g. more technical vs more socio-organizational), impact factor, indexing. Recker addresses writing IS articles, selecting target outlets, the review process
- Ethical concerns: data privacy, informed consent, reproducibility, plagiarism, data fabrication/falsification, fair collaboration, conflict of interest. Also, ethical conduct in computational methods (e.g. biases in algorithms). Recker’s text includes a full chapter on ethical considerations.

6. Challenges in IS Research

Despite many advances, IS research faces multiple challenges.

- **Rapidly Changing Technology:** By the time studies are done and published, the technological context may have changed.
- **Interdisciplinarity and Bridging Gaps:** Researchers must be conversant in technical, managerial, social theory. Knowledge silos make integrative theory and application harder.
- **Measurement and Validity Issues:** Constructs in IS (e.g. ‘user satisfaction’, ‘system quality’) can be tricky. Ensuring valid instruments, reliable data is not easy.
- **Data Quality and Data Availability:** For computational and big data methods especially, data may be inconsistent, incomplete, biased. Research Information Systems (RIS / CRIS) sometimes have errors.
- **Replicability and Generalizability:** Many case studies or qualitative works may not generalize; quantitative studies may suffer from context-dependence.
- **Ethics and Social Impact:** With AI and large-scale data, issues of privacy, bias, fairness, and unintended consequences arise.

7. Emerging Trends and Frontiers

Recent literature shows several new/expanding areas in IS research.

- **Information Quality and Citizen Science:** Citizen science (where non-professional individuals contribute data) raises interesting problems of information quality, trust, community engagement.
- **Research Information Systems, Ontologies:** Systems to support scientific work, integrating ontological representations of knowledge, assisting researchers in working with large-scale information ecosystems.
- **Data Quality in Research Information Systems:** Ensuring accuracy, consistency, completeness in data about research outputs, researchers, metrics.
- **Bibliometric and Social Network Analyses of Knowledge Dynamics:** Mapping research trends, co-word analyses, keyword evolution, etc. For example, analyses of journals like *Online Information Review*.
- **Computational and Data-Intensive Methods:** Machine learning, big data, simulations being used not only for technical systems but also for understanding organizational, social phenomena.
- **Design Science with Societal Impact:** IS research increasingly expected to be useful— not just theoretically sound but socially relevant, sustainable, ethically aware.

8. Gaps and Opportunities

From the review, several gaps emerge:

- More rigorous empirical work in underrepresented contexts (e.g. developing countries): many methods assume data availability, infrastructure, etc., which may not hold globally.
- Better integration of theory and design: design science often focuses on artifact; needing more theories that explicate impact, adoption, behaviour.
- Longitudinal studies: many IS studies are cross-sectional; the dynamics over time (e.g. technology adoption, evolution of systems, organizational change) are less well studied.

- Ethical frameworks specific to computational IS: while ethics is discussed, rapidly evolving technologies (AI, deep learning) need new ethical guidelines specifically in IS research.
- Measurement tools and validity: more work needed in developing valid, reliable measures especially for constructs that cross technical and social components.
- Replication studies: less frequent in IS, but useful for confirming findings, especially in different contexts.

10. Conclusion

Scientific research in Information Systems is a maturing field with rich diversity in methods, purposes, and outcomes. It encompasses rigorous empirical quantitative methods, interpretive qualitative work, design science and computational approaches. The philosophical foundations—ontology, epistemology, theory building—provide the backbone that gives coherence and rigor to IS research. Nevertheless, as IS becomes more central to business, social life, governance, and human well-being, researchers must grapple with evolving challenges: data quality, ethical risks, rapid technological change, and context diversity. To remain relevant and robust, IS research must continue to foreground theoretical clarity, methodological rigor, ethical awareness, and societal impact. Future work should especially focus on underexplored geographies, longitudinal designs, replication, and integrating design science with theory and ethics.

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Research Innovation and Digital Transformation in Libraries

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Abstract

Libraries worldwide are undergoing profound transformations as digital technologies reshape how information is stored, accessed, and used. This article surveys recent research on innovation and digital transformation in libraries, highlighting the trends, key technologies, models, challenges, impacts, and future directions. Evidence is drawn from systematic reviews, case studies, content analyses, and model-building research. The aim is to understand how libraries are innovating, what drives or hinders those innovations, and how best to navigate digital transformation to enhance service, access, and relevance in the information age.

Keywords: Research Innovation, Digital Transformation, Libraries

Introduction

Digital transformation is revolutionizing the way libraries operate, making them more efficient, user-friendly, and relevant in today's digital age. This transformation involves the integration of digital tools and technologies to enhance library services, operations, and user experience. Libraries are undergoing a significant transformation, driven by advances in technology, changing user needs, and the increasing importance of digital information. This transformation is not just about digitizing collections, but also about rethinking the role of libraries in the digital age. Libraries have traditionally been physical spaces housing collections of books, journals, and other materials. However, with advances in ICT (Information & Communication Technology), digital media, and user expectations, libraries are no longer just custodians of print but hybrid or predominantly digital information hubs. Research innovation (new practices, services, tools) combined with digital transformation (structural, technological, organizational change) is necessary for libraries to stay relevant, accessible, and effective.

Key Concepts

Digital Transformation (DT): Not only implementing technology, but changing workflows, structures, skill sets, culture, policies, and user interactions to harness digital capabilities.

Innovation in Libraries: New or improved services, processes, or methods e.g. new service models, outreach, user engagement, adoption of emerging tech.

Emerging Technologies: AI/ML, VR/AR, virtual assistants, open access repositories, integrated library systems, metadata & standards, digital preservation.

User-Centered Services: Emphasis on usability, accessibility, remote access, personalized information discovery, inclusive services.

Trends & Models from Research

Several recent studies provide useful data and models. Key ones are:

Systematic Reviews / Content Analyses

Digital transformation and innovation of academic libraries: A content analysis (Liman & Aliyu, 2023) reviews 45 publications (2010-2022) to identify types of digital transformation and innovation in academic libraries. Findings include:

Model Design

Designing the digital transformation model of public university libraries in Iran (Khoeini, Noruzi, Naghshineh & Sheikhshoei, 2025) used the Delphi method to build a model with 7 main dimensions, 25 concepts, 139 components. Some new emphases are: data-centered decision making; librarian digital competencies; optimal acquisitions and reorganization of library resources; Web 2.0 technologies.

Qualitative & Quantitative Case Studies

Digital transformation of academic libraries in India: Exploring ICT integration explores how ICT integration (digital repositories, integrated library systems, collaborative platforms etc.) helps in knowledge sharing and resource optimization. Challenges identified: financial constraints, technology barriers, need for staff training.

Analysis of digital transformation of services in a research library (Moravian Library, Czech Republic) shows how digital usage can increase even while physical book circulation declines; that gradually replacing component of traditional services with digital ones is feasible.

Public Libraries & Community-oriented Innovation

Digital Transformation in Public Libraries:

Public libraries are less frequently studied in the DT literature compared to business/public sector DT; that the research output is growing but still underdeveloped.

Drivers of Innovation & Digital Transformation

From the literature, key drivers are:

User Expectation & Behavior: Demand for remote access, digital content, mobile access, and interactive platforms.

Technological Possibilities: Better infrastructure (internet, cloud), AI/ML, VR/AR, open source software, metadata standards, analytics, mobile tools.

Policy & Institutional Mandates: National/institutional policies favoring digital libraries, open access, repository creation; mandates for digital literacy.

Funding & Resources: Grants, government support, institutional budgets.

Staff Skills & Competencies: ICT skills, data literacy, change management capability among librarians and supporting staff.

Collaboration & Networking: Partnerships among libraries, between libraries and tech providers, academic collaborations.

Challenges & Barriers

Despite advances, many studies highlight barriers:

Financial Constraints: Cost of hardware, software, infrastructure, maintenance.

Skill Gaps: Librarians/staff lacking digital literacy, familiarity with new tools, metadata standards, AI/ML, etc.

Technological Barriers: Poor internet connectivity, hardware/software limitations, lack of reliable power supply in some regions.

Digital Divide: Users without devices, or with low digital literacy, or in rural/remote areas.

Policy & Licensing Issues: Copyright, licensing for e-resources, digital rights management.

Cultural Resistance: Some inertia in changing traditional library roles, or user preference for print, resistance to change by staff.

Sustainability: Ensuring that pilot projects or prototypes become sustainable services.

Data and Privacy Concerns: Especially when using AI, analytics, or tracking user behavior.

Conclusion

Innovation and digital transformation in libraries is not optional but necessary in the 21st century. Research shows that when done well, digital transformation improves access, efficiency, user engagement, and preserves cultural heritage. However, challenges — financial, infrastructural, skill-based, policy, and equity issues — must be managed. By adopting thoughtful models, investing in people, engaging users, and planning for sustainability, libraries can evolve into dynamic, digitally enabled institutions that serve communities in new and meaningful ways.

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A Synthesis Study of Recent Trends in Digital Transformation in Libraries

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ABSTRACT: Digital transformation is restructuring libraries from physical repositories into dynamic, technology-driven learning and research hubs. Major trends include adoption of AI-driven services (chat bots, discovery and metadata automation), migration to cloud-based library services platforms (LSPs), expanded digital preservation strategies (including experimentation with block chain), a growth in maker spaces and digital scholarship services, and increased emphasis on open access, data analytics, personalization, and accessibility. The present study is based on secondary sources of data and a descriptive type. The paper synthesizes recent literature (2023–2025), highlights representative initiatives and case examples, discusses barriers, and offers actionable recommendations for libraries seeking to plan or accelerate digital transformation.

Keywords: *Digital transformation, libraries, artificial intelligence, and digital preservation.*

Introduction

Libraries have historically served as repositories of knowledge and cultural memory, offering access to information, preservation of heritage, and support for education and research. However, in the 21st century, the rapid advancement of information and communication technologies (ICTs) has redefined the traditional role of libraries. Digital transformation in libraries extends beyond mere digitization of collections; it encompasses the adoption of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing, data analytics, and blockchain to reconfigure library services, spaces, and user experiences (Rodriguez, Szydlowski, & Cai, 2025). These shifts reflect a paradigm change from collection-centric models to user-centered, service-driven, and technology-enabled ecosystems.

One of the most important trends in digital transformation is the migration to cloud-based library services platforms (LSPs). Legacy integrated library systems (ILS) often pose challenges of scalability, interoperability, and cost-efficiency. Cloud-hosted solutions such as Ex Libris Alma or OCLC World Share enable libraries to streamline workflows, integrate diverse content formats, and collaborate across consortia. This trend demonstrates a sector-

wide transition to more sustainable, vendor-supported infrastructures that enhance discoverability and reduce the burden of local maintenance (American Libraries, 2024; Liu, 2024). The integration of artificial intelligence has further accelerated this transformation. Libraries are experimenting with AI-powered chat bots for reference services, machine learning algorithms for metadata generation, and recommender systems for personalized discovery. Such applications enhance efficiency and extend user support beyond physical library hours. However, they also raise ethical considerations regarding privacy, transparency, and algorithmic bias (Rodriguez et al., 2025).

Digital preservation remains another critical component of transformation. While traditional preservation practices such as LOCKSS and CLOCKSS continue, libraries are exploring emerging technologies like block chain for ensuring provenance, authenticity, and transparency in digital records (Rao & Prasad, 2025). Alongside preservation, digitization initiatives have scaled up globally, with libraries digitizing rare manuscripts, archives, and cultural artifacts not only for access but also as datasets for AI research and scholarly use (Associated Press, 2025). Also, libraries are reimagining their spaces as digital learning environments. Maker spaces, data visualization labs, and collaborative commons are being integrated into library design to foster creativity, innovation, and interdisciplinary research (Creative Library Practice, 2025). These shifts highlight the broader role of libraries as enablers of digital literacy and lifelong learning. The digital transformation of libraries is not a one-time event but an ongoing process of adaptation to technological, social, and educational change. This study examines the recent trends determining this transformation, analyzes their implications, and highlights challenges and opportunities for libraries in supporting their mission in the digital age.

Objectives of the Study

1. To analyze the recent technological trends driving digital transformation in libraries.
2. To evaluate the implications, challenges, and opportunities of digital transformation in libraries.

Research Methodology

The present study is based on secondary sources of data and The study adopts a qualitative, descriptive, and analytical research methodology. Secondary data were collected from scholarly journals, books, conference proceedings, industry reports, and credible online

sources published between 2023 and 2025. A narrative review approach was used to synthesize existing literature and identify emerging patterns in digital transformation within libraries. The analysis focuses on major technological trends, their applications, and implications, providing an interpretive framework rather than empirical measurement.

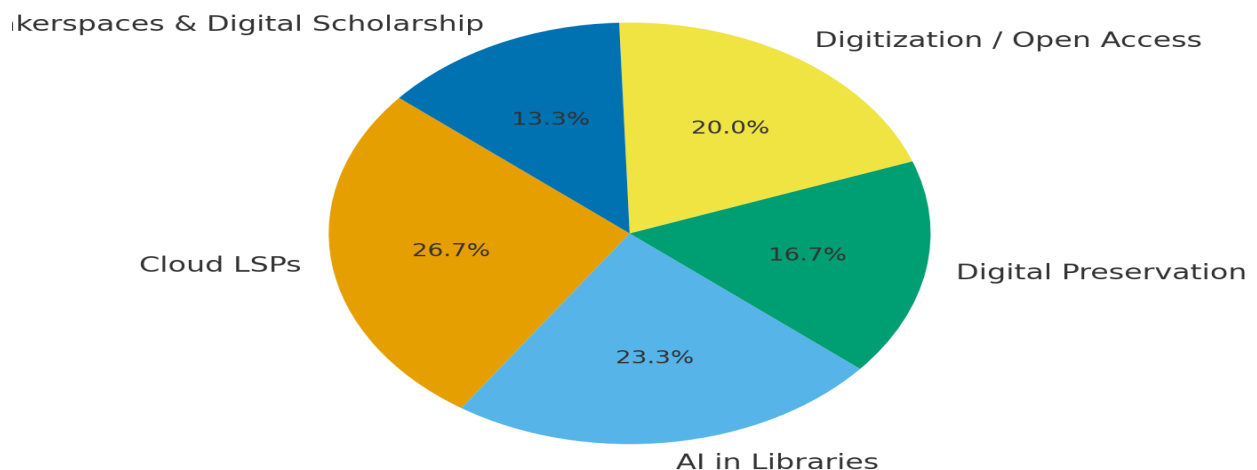
Literature review

Liu, Z. (2024) study on library services platforms (LSPs) documents a clear sector-wide shift from legacy integrated library systems (ILS) to cloud-based LSPs that support multi-format workflows, analytics, and cross-system interoperability. Systematic reviews find that platforms such as Ex Libris Alma and OCLC World Share are being adopted for their scalability, API ecosystems, and ability to integrate discovery, acquisitions, and electronic resource management—transforming technical infrastructure and enabling consortia collaboration. *American Libraries (2024)* conducting professional surveys and industry reports corroborate the rapid migration to cloud LSPs and reveal vendor-driven innovation in usability and accessibility. The 2024 Library Systems Report and vendor reports highlight recent feature rollouts (APIs, modernized UIs, accessibility enhancements) and provide empirical evidence of new subscribers moving to cloud-hosted library platforms, underscoring procurement and sustainability implications for libraries. *Lo, L. S. (2024)* studied application of artificial intelligence in libraries has expanded beyond experimental pilots to practical use-cases such as conversational chatbots, AI-assisted metadata enrichment, and recommender systems. Empirical studies on AI literacy among library staff reveal both growing interest and capability gaps—indicating that while AI can increase service reach and efficiency, effective adoption requires training, governance frameworks, and attention to privacy and bias. *Rao, M. H. S. (2025)* Digital preservation research emphasizes hybrid approaches: established preservation systems (LOCKSS/CLOCKSS, trusted repositories) remain central, while block chain and distributed-ledger experiments are being explored for provenance, audit ability, and tamper-evidence. Recent case studies and conference proceedings argue that block chain can strengthen metadata immutability and provenance tracking, but scalability, cost, and energy concerns mean it is presently a complementary technology rather than a wholesale replacement for mature preservation infrastructures. *Melo, M. M. (2023)* maker spaces and digital scholarship services continue to reshape the physical and pedagogical roles of libraries. Audits and case-study reviews document the proliferation of makerspaces across academic libraries, showing that these facilities support interdisciplinary learning, experiential pedagogy, and innovation activities

(3D printing, VR/AR, data viz). Literature also points to governance, safety, and staffing challenges as common themes in makerspace implementation *Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL)*. (2024) recent trend analyses emphasize that digital transformation is not purely technological but socio-technical: initiatives around open access, data stewardship, and privacy-preserving analytics reflect libraries' evolving mission as ethical stewards of information. Reports and practitioner forums highlight best-practice recommendations—prioritizing open standards, transparency in AI use, staff capacity-building and regional collaboration to share costs and expertise.

Current status of digital transformation in libraries

The pie chart (Figure 1) visualizes a **sampled content-analysis** of **30 recent reports/articles (2023–2025)** found during a literature search. Each report was categorized by its *primary focus* (Cloud LSPs; AI in libraries; Digital preservation; Digitization/Open Access; Maker spaces & digital scholarship). The sample is not a population survey of all libraries, but a purposefully selected sample of recent authoritative reports and peer-reviewed studies used in this analysis. Cloud LSPs: 8 reports (26.7%), AI in Libraries: 7 reports (23.3%), Digitization / Open Access: 6 reports (20.0%), Digital Preservation: 5 reports (16.7%) and Maker spaces & Digital Scholarship: 4 reports (13.3%)



To understand the *current status* of digital transformation in libraries, researcher performed a targeted literature and report search of recent (2023–2025) authoritative sources: library industry reports (Marshall Breeding / Library Systems Report), association trend pieces (ACRL/College & Research Libraries News), scholarly articles on digital preservation and AI, preservation organization resources (LOCKSS, CLOCKSS), and practitioner outlets

(Creative Library Practice, Library Technology Guides). From the pool of documents located, 30 representative items were selected and coded by primary focus area to produce a snapshot of which transformation topics dominate the recent discourse. The resulting distribution ($n = 30$) is shown in Figure 1. This sample-based approach is explicitly interpretive — it reveals emphasis in recent literature and professional discussion rather than a statistical census of library technology installations.

1. Cloud-based Library Services Platforms (LSPs) — a dominant, continuing trend

The largest slice of the sample (26.7%) focuses on cloud LSPs and migration away from legacy ILSSs. This reflects a strong, sector-wide shift documented by Marshall Bleeding's annual Library Systems Report and corroborated by Library Technology's 2024 product/perception surveys: academic and many larger public libraries are migrating to vendor-hosted platforms (Ex Libris Alma, OCLC World Share, etc.) to gain multi-format management, integrated discovery, and reduced local infrastructure burdens (upgrades, backups, local sysadmin). The benefits emphasized across reports include consolidated workflows, vendor-provided maintenance and security, and stronger API-driven interoperability with institutional systems (LMS, repositories). At the same time, the literature repeatedly raises vendor-dependence, procurement strategy, and long-term sustainability as important governance questions. These findings align with the largest portion of our sample and with sector data showing strong adoption among research libraries.

2. Artificial Intelligence (AI) — rapidly rising from pilot to operational use

AI (23.3% of the sample) is the second-largest focus in recent literature. Use-cases documented in the reports include AI chat bots for reference, machine-assisted metadata enrichment, automated OCR cleanup, semantic discovery enhancements, and recommender systems for personalization. Several studies and practitioner guides demonstrate that libraries are moving beyond single-site experiments to production pilots (especially chat bots and metadata automation), and that there is strong practitioner interest in library-led AI governance (data provenance, training dataset curation, bias mitigation). The literature also underscores capability gaps — staff training and policy frameworks are necessary conditions for safe adoption.

3. Digitization & Open Access — widespread activity, serving both access and data needs

Digitization and open access programs comprised about 20% of the sample focus. Libraries continue large-scale digitization projects (special collections, historical corpora) —

both to improve public access and, increasingly, to produce machine-readable corpora used in research and as responsibly curated datasets for AI research. The Open Repositories / repository literature shows active evolution of institutional repositories and OA infrastructure, emphasizing interoperability and repository-based publishing. The practical implication: digitization remains foundational to transformation, but requires concurrent rights management and preservation planning.

4. Digital preservation — central but exposed to stress and uneven coverage

Digital preservation accounts for 16.7% of the sample. Recent empirical studies (large-scale analyses of DOIs and journal preservation) reveal that a nontrivial fraction of scholarly outputs lack robust multi-archive preservation (Martin Eve's study found substantial gaps), underscoring fragility in the scholarly corpus despite preservation initiatives like LOCKSS and CLOCKSS. Preservation organizations remain vital, but many publishers and repositories have incomplete preservation arrangements; blockchain experiments for provenance have been proposed but are mostly pilot-stage, and the community still relies chiefly on trusted digital repositories and distributed archiving systems. Preservation is thus a high-priority but technically and financially challenging area of digital transformation.

5. Maker spaces & digital scholarship — a continuing redefinition of library space and pedagogy

Maker spaces and digital scholarship services represent the smallest slice of the sample (13.3%), yet their impact is highly visible at campus level. Maker spaces have become common as libraries shift to hybrid service models that combine collections stewardship with skills training, innovation labs, and collaborative research facilities (3D printing, VR/AR, data visualization). Literature emphasizes the pedagogical and cross-disciplinary value of these spaces, while also noting safety, staffing, and governance challenges. Makerspaces are indicators of libraries' evolving role in digital literacy and experiential learning.

Conclusion

Current evidence indicates a sector that is actively modernizing: cloud LSPs and AI are prominent drivers of transformation, digitization and open access continue to expand access and research use, preservation is a critical and sometimes under-resourced pillar, and makerspaces reframe libraries' pedagogical roles. The pie-chart sample shows where recent professional attention has concentrated and the cited empirical reports corroborate large-scale

migration to cloud platforms and growing practical deployments of AI — all pointing to a library ecosystem in substantive, multi-track transformation. Libraries' near-term priorities should be robust digital preservation, AI governance and staff training, and collaborative procurement strategies to ensure sustainable, equitable access to digital knowledge

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Institutional Repositories: Exploring Their Role in the Sustainable Development of Online Resources

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Abstract

Institutional Repositories (IRs) are critical digital infrastructures for preserving, managing, and disseminating academic knowledge. They collect and provide access to intellectual outputs such as theses, dissertations, publications, and datasets, promoting open access and increasing institutional visibility. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of IRs as higher education institutions relied on digital platforms for uninterrupted learning and research. Despite their significance, challenges such as funding constraints, lack of technical expertise, copyright issues, and low faculty engagement hinder their adoption. This paper reviews international and national literature on IRs, identifies research gaps, and explores strategies for sustainable development of online academic resources.

Introduction

The integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has transformed higher education, leading to the emergence of hybrid libraries that combine print and digital resources. Institutional Repositories (IRs) have become essential platforms where academic institutions collect, preserve, and disseminate scholarly outputs for global access. The COVID-19 pandemic emphasized the necessity of digital access, as campuses closed and traditional teaching methods were disrupted, compelling universities to rely on IRs to maintain continuity in learning and research. Governments in India, including Maharashtra, have encouraged institutions to establish repositories to support remote education and knowledge sharing. Beyond storage, IRs enhance institutional visibility, increase citation impact, support open access, and contribute to sustainable online resource development. Academic librarians play a central role in managing IRs, providing guidance, technical support, and facilitating engagement with faculty and students.

Definition

An Institutional Repository (IR) is a digital archive of intellectual products created by faculty, staff, and students, designed for collecting, preserving, and disseminating scholarly content globally (Velmurugan, 2010).

Review of Related Literature (600 words)

International Studies

Gideon Emcee Christian (2008) highlighted the importance of stakeholder training in Nigeria, recommending South Africa's eIFL and SASLI approach that included conferences and workshops to increase awareness and engagement.

Jennifer Campbell-Meier (2011) emphasized faculty participation in IRs, finding low engagement due to limited awareness, absence of incentives, and unclear policies, stressing the importance of faculty motivation and institutional policy support.

Ivwithghreghweta (2012) studied Nigerian universities and found that most institutions lacked IRs because of minimal institutional support, low faculty participation, and absence of clear policies.

Thomas Singarella (2015) identified critical issues in IR development: content management, copyright, funding, technical support, and institutional commitment. The study concluded that sustainable IRs require strong administrative and financial support.

Suzanne Bell et al. (2016) highlighted librarians' evolving roles, indicating they act as facilitators of digital scholarship, collaborating with faculty to integrate IR services into research workflows.

Mohamed & Wathemanel (2016) examined Sri Lankan universities, recommending IR development to improve visibility, while noting challenges such as lack of technical expertise and weak policy frameworks.

Omer Hassan Abdelrahman (2017) reported on the University of Khartoum, emphasizing that IRs enhance research dissemination but face low faculty engagement, limited funding, and inadequate ICT infrastructure.

Rudo Loveness Chiramba (2019) compared Zimbabwe's IR growth from 2012 to 2019, showing expansion from one to thirteen repositories, indicating that institutional commitment drives adoption.

Jelagat et al. (2021) studied Kenyan institutions, noting underutilization of librarians in IR management. They recommended capacity-building programs and stronger institutional policies.

Masenya (2021) analyzed South African IRs, concluding that while many met criteria for trusted repositories, improvements were needed in metadata standards, sustainability planning, and user engagement.

National Studies (India)

Naikwadi et al. (2010) documented IR creation at Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, emphasizing LIS professionals' contributions to global visibility.

Bansod, Bhupendra (2013) examined six repositories in Maharashtra, noting limited adoption, with IIT Bombay emerging as a leader.

Mithu Anjali Gayan & Derhashar Swargiary (2014) reviewed 59 Indian IRs in OpenDOAR, highlighting uneven growth and inconsistent updates, underscoring the need for proper management and promotion.

Kalbande, Dattatraya (2018) identified major challenges: funding shortages, copyright issues, lack of policy support, and insufficient librarian training, emphasizing collaboration between institutions and government.

Abhilasha Priyadarshani (2018) studied postgraduate student awareness at Mysore University, revealing low engagement, recommending training and awareness programs to promote contributions.

Saini O.P. (2018) concluded that IRs enhance institutional visibility, improve accessibility, and strengthen scholarly communication, which are crucial for sustainable development of online academic resources.

Role of Institutional Repositories in Sustainable Development (approx. 700 words)

1. Preservation of Knowledge

- IRs ensure long-term preservation of academic outputs, including theses, dissertations, publications, and datasets.

- Digital storage reduces risk of information loss, ensuring accessibility for future research.

2. Open Access and Equitable Knowledge Sharing

- IRs provide free access to scholarly materials, promoting knowledge equity.
- Facilitate research collaboration, interdisciplinary studies, and evidence-based policymaking.
- Reduce duplication of research, saving resources and supporting sustainability.

3. Environmental Sustainability

- Digital repositories reduce dependence on printed materials, saving paper and minimizing carbon footprint.
- Reduce storage space and physical archiving costs, contributing to institutional resource efficiency.

4. Role of Librarians

- Librarians curate content, maintain metadata standards, and manage copyright/IPR issues.
- Train faculty and students, integrate ICT tools, and advocate for IR usage.
- Facilitate faculty contributions and repository visibility through workshops and seminars.

5. Institutional Policies and Governance

- Sustainable IRs require policy support for copyright, content deposition, and incentives.
- Financial and administrative commitment ensures long-term viability.
- Clear guidelines and metadata standards improve usability and searchability.

6. Capacity Building and Technical Support

- Training for librarians and faculty is essential for successful IR implementation.
- Technical support ensures repositories remain updated, secure, and user-friendly.
- Regular assessment and feedback improve repository performance and sustainability.

7. Global Visibility and Impact

- IRs enhance research discoverability and citation impact.
- Participation in global open-access networks increases institutional reputation.

- Adoption of international metadata standards ensures interoperability and accessibility.

8. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Alignment

- IRs contribute to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 9 (Innovation and Infrastructure) by providing accessible, high-quality academic resources.
- Promote research transparency and global knowledge dissemination.

9. Best Practices for Sustainability

- Encourage faculty contributions through recognition, incentives, and awareness programs.
- Develop user-friendly interfaces with searchable metadata.
- Regular updates, integration with indexing services, and alignment with institutional research strategies.
- Collaboration between government, institutions, and librarians ensures long-term repository development.

10. Challenges to Sustainable IRs

- Funding constraints limit infrastructure development.
- Faculty reluctance due to copyright or lack of incentives.
- Technical gaps in repository management and metadata design.
- Policy and governance weaknesses affecting long-term sustainability.

11. Strategies for Sustainable Development

- Strengthen institutional commitment and funding models.
- Continuous training for librarians and awareness campaigns for faculty.
- Implement clear copyright and IPR policies.
- Adopt international best practices while localizing solutions for Maharashtra.
- Engage students and researchers in repository management and content creation.

12. Impact on Academic Ecosystem

- IRs preserve knowledge, ensure accessibility, and facilitate collaboration.
- Enhance research productivity, institutional reputation, and global visibility.
- Promote digital literacy, ICT adoption, and sustainable practices in education.

Conclusion

Institutional Repositories are essential for the sustainable development of online academic resources. They preserve knowledge, facilitate open access, enhance institutional visibility, and optimize resource use while supporting environmentally sustainable practices. Global studies indicate steady progress, whereas Indian research highlights uneven adoption and low faculty engagement. In Maharashtra, challenges such as funding constraints, lack of technical expertise, copyright issues, and limited policy support hinder IR growth. Librarians play a central role as facilitators, curators, and advocates. Sustainable development of IRs requires institutional commitment, policy frameworks, faculty motivation, and continuous capacity-building for librarians to ensure enduring access and impact.

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Climate change impacts on wildlife sanctuaries in Maharashtra, India: a synthesis and management recommendations

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Abstract

Maharashtra contains diverse protected areas (tropical dry deciduous forests, Western Ghats montane forests, wetlands) that support high biodiversity and many large mammals (tiger, gaur, sloth bear, elephants in some zones). Climate change — rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns and increasing frequency of extreme events — threatens habitat quality, species ranges, phenology, water availability, and human–wildlife interactions in these sanctuaries. This paper synthesizes recent regional studies, government climate adaptation plans, and global assessments to (1) identify major climate-driven threats to Maharashtra’s protected areas, (2) summarize evidence from case studies (notably Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve and other reserves), and (3) provide practical management and policy recommendations for adaptation and resilience. Key recommendations include integrating climate vulnerability assessments into management plans, expanding habitat connectivity, adaptive water management, early-warning systems for extreme events and conflict mitigation, and periodic monitoring using remote sensing and species distribution models. Major findings are grounded in IPCC assessments, Maharashtra state planning documents, and regional research on forest cover and habitat suitability.

Keywords: Climate Change, Biodiversity, Wildlife Sanctuary, Global Assessment,

Introduction

Protected areas are central to biodiversity conservation, yet they are not immune to climate change. Climate-driven temperature increases, altered monsoon regimes and extreme weather (droughts, heatwaves, intense rains) alter habitat suitability, primary productivity, water resources and species behavior. Maharashtra's protected area network includes important tiger reserves (Tadoba-Andhari, Melghat, Pench portions), Western Ghats sanctuaries (Bhimashankar, Koyna, Chandoli), and numerous smaller sanctuaries and wetlands which together host mammal, bird, reptile and freshwater diversity. Understanding how climate change is affecting these areas is essential for planning adaptive conservation.

Climate change has emerged as one of the most pressing environmental challenges of the 21st century, with profound implications for biodiversity conservation worldwide. Protected areas, particularly wildlife sanctuaries, are designed to safeguard species and habitats, but they too are increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of rising temperatures, altered precipitation regimes, and extreme weather events. In India, which harbors globally significant biodiversity hotspots, climate change is expected to act as a major driver of ecosystem transformation over the coming decades.

Maharashtra, located in the western and central part of India, contains a rich network of **48 wildlife sanctuaries, 6 national parks, and 6 tiger reserves**, representing diverse ecosystems — from **tropical dry deciduous forests of Vidarbha and Marathwada**, to the **evergreen and semi-evergreen forests of the Western Ghats**, and unique **wetland ecosystems like Lonar Lake and Jayakwadi Bird Sanctuary**. These protected areas are home to iconic and threatened species such as the **Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*)**, **Indian gaur (*Bos gaurus*)**, **sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*)**, **wild dog (*Cuon alpinus*)**, and over **450 species of birds**, including migratory waterfowl that depend on seasonal wetlands.

Recent studies indicate that **average surface temperatures in Maharashtra have already increased by about 0.6–0.8°C over the past century**, and climate models project further warming of 1.5–2.5°C by mid-century under moderate emission scenarios. Changes in the **southwest monsoon** — the state's lifeline for water and agriculture — are predicted to result in **erratic rainfall, extended dry spells, and more frequent extreme rainfall events**, which will directly influence sanctuary ecosystems. For example, **Western Ghats sanctuaries like Bhimashankar and Koyna** may experience shifts in montane vegetation, while **dry deciduous reserves such as Tadoba-Andhari and Melghat** could face water scarcity and habitat desiccation during prolonged summers.

The ecological implications of these climatic shifts are far-reaching. **Species ranges are likely to shift** as animals and plants track suitable climate zones, yet the **fragmented nature of habitats in Maharashtra** may prevent many species from dispersing effectively. **Phenological changes** (altered timing of flowering, fruiting, or migration) could disrupt ecological interactions and food webs, threatening pollinators, herbivores, and predators alike. In addition, **climate stress can intensify human–**

wildlife conflict, as droughts or crop failures drive communities to depend more heavily on forest resources, leading to greater encounters with elephants, tigers, and leopards at the forest edge.

Thus, understanding the impacts of climate change on Maharashtra's wildlife sanctuaries is not merely an academic exercise — it is a conservation necessity. The management of these sanctuaries must now account for future climate scenarios, shifting species distributions, and socio-ecological vulnerabilities. This paper seeks to synthesize available evidence, highlight key case studies (with emphasis on **Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve** as one of the most studied sanctuaries), and propose actionable strategies to strengthen the resilience of Maharashtra's protected areas in the face of a rapidly changing climate.

Objectives

1. Synthesize recent evidence on climate impacts relevant to Maharashtra's wildlife sanctuaries.
2. Highlight case-study findings (Tadoba-Andhari as the best-documented example).
3. Propose actionable adaptation and monitoring measures for sanctuary managers and policymakers.

Methods

This is a literature-based synthesis. Sources were selected from: IPCC assessment syntheses, Maharashtra State climate planning documents, peer-reviewed articles and regional studies (remote sensing analyses, species distribution modelling), and high-quality environmental reporting. Where primary field data were lacking, remote-sensing based forest-change studies and habitat-suitability modelling papers were used to infer likely climate-driven impacts. The review prioritized (a) authoritative assessments (IPCC, state climate action plans), (b) local case studies (e.g., Tadoba forest-cover and habitat studies), and (c) recent analyses of species distribution under climate scenarios.

Evidence and synthesis

4.1 Large-scale climate trends and ecological implications

The IPCC AR6 documents observed warming and projected increases in frequency and intensity of extreme events across Asia. For India, altered monsoon dynamics and increased drought/heatwave frequency directly influence sanctuary ecosystems. Protected areas will experience higher evapotranspiration, vegetation stress, and hydrological changes. This increases vulnerability for sensitive fauna such as amphibians, migratory birds, and mammals dependent on perennial water bodies.

Maharashtra-specific planning and observed concerns

Maharashtra State Climate Action Plans recognize biodiversity-rich landscapes as priority sectors. Shifting vegetation zones, reduced water in wetlands, and climate-driven forest fires are identified as risks. Additionally, climate extremes may increase dependence of local communities on sanctuary resources, escalating human–wildlife conflict.

Case study — Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR)

Tadoba is one of Maharashtra's most important tiger reserves. Remote sensing studies have shown that rising land surface temperatures are correlated with reductions in vegetation health indices (NDVI). Forest-cover decline combined with climate stress reduces prey base quality and water availability. Increased predator incidents in Chandrapur district are partly linked to ecological stress, with climate change acting as a stress multiplier alongside land-use pressures.

Species distribution and habitat suitability modelling findings

SDM studies project reductions in habitat suitability for mammals and forest specialists under future RCP scenarios. Species may shift to higher altitudes or latitudes, but fragmented corridors in Maharashtra limit this possibility. Western Ghats endemics are especially vulnerable due to narrow ranges.

Secondary impacts: water, phenology, and human-wildlife conflict

Water resources: drying of streams and reservoirs during prolonged summers may force animals to congregate, raising disease and conflict risks. Phenology: altered flowering/fruitletting disrupts food webs, impacting herbivores and pollinators.

Conflict: climate shocks reduce agricultural productivity, increasing forest-edge grazing and fuelwood dependence, leading to more human–wildlife encounters.

Discussion

Sanctuaries across Maharashtra face combined pressures of climate change and anthropogenic stressors. Vulnerability differs between Western Ghats montane sanctuaries and dry deciduous reserves. Connectivity is essential to enable species range shifts. Lack of standardized monitoring limits effective attribution of observed ecological changes to climate factors.

Recommendations

1. Conduct sanctuary-level climate vulnerability assessments with downscaled climate models.
2. Map and secure wildlife corridors to improve species mobility under climate stress.
3. Implement adaptive water management — restore wetlands, recharge catchments, build waterholes where appropriate.
4. Establish long-term ecological monitoring combining satellite remote sensing and ground surveys.
5. Develop early-warning systems for droughts and heatwaves to manage risks proactively.
6. Strengthen human–wildlife conflict mitigation strategies, including solar fencing, predator-proof livestock enclosures, and rapid compensation schemes.
7. Enhance community resilience with alternative livelihood opportunities and participatory conservation programmes.

Limitations

This synthesis relies on secondary data sources. Attributing sanctuary-level ecological changes to climate drivers requires long-term monitoring. Future research should focus on empirical studies with climate-ecological correlations and scenario modelling at finer spatial scales.

Conclusion

Climate change is no longer a distant threat but a present reality affecting ecosystems and biodiversity across the globe, and Maharashtra's wildlife sanctuaries are no exception. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, increasing droughts, and extreme weather events are already influencing the ecological balance of protected areas such as **Tadoba-Andhari, Melghat, Bhimashankar, Koyna, and Lonar**. These changes are reshaping habitats, altering species behavior, and intensifying human-wildlife interactions, thereby posing new challenges to conservation efforts.

The vulnerability of Maharashtra's sanctuaries stems not only from climatic pressures but also from **anthropogenic stressors**, including habitat fragmentation, deforestation, over-extraction of resources, and developmental pressures near sanctuary boundaries. Climate change acts as a **force multiplier**, worsening existing threats and creating complex conservation dilemmas. For instance, reduced water availability during extended summers in dry deciduous forests could push herbivores closer to agricultural fields, increasing crop depredation and conflict with local communities. Similarly, shifts in migratory bird patterns due to wetland drying may lead to long-term declines in avian diversity.

However, the situation is not without hope. Maharashtra has a strong network of protected areas and conservation traditions that can be strengthened through climate-adaptive strategies. Key recommendations include:

Climate-Smart Habitat Management – Ensuring water security through artificial waterholes, wetland restoration, and catchment protection; maintaining forest corridors to allow species migration.

Monitoring and Research – Establishing long-term ecological monitoring programs to track changes in vegetation, wildlife populations, and phenology, with the support of advanced tools like remote sensing and GIS.

Community Engagement – Promoting eco-tourism, participatory forest management, and climate-resilient livelihoods that reduce dependence on sanctuary resources.

Policy Integration – Incorporating climate change scenarios into state-level wildlife action plans and aligning sanctuary management with India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

Capacity Building – Training forest officials, researchers, and local stakeholders in adaptive management practices, disaster preparedness, and conflict mitigation.

In conclusion, **safeguarding Maharashtra's wildlife sanctuaries in the era of climate change requires a proactive, science-based, and inclusive approach**. Conservation strategies must go beyond traditional protection measures and incorporate climate resilience as a central objective. By combining strong policy support, cutting-edge research, and community participation, Maharashtra can ensure that its sanctuaries continue to serve as safe havens for biodiversity while also supporting ecosystem services that millions of people depend upon.

The fight against climate change is not only about protecting wildlife — it is about securing the ecological and cultural heritage of Maharashtra for generations to come.

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“Empowering Educators with Digital Proficiency: Continuous Professional Development Aligned with NEP-2020”

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Abstract

The NEP 2020 recommend that “Teachers will be given continuous opportunities for self-improvement and learning the latest innovations and advances in their professions.”

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) is truly essential for the growth and effectiveness of teachers. Embracing continuous professional development not only benefits teachers personally but also contributes to the overall growth and success of the education system. More serious efforts to develop a digital literacy framework in educational system are still urgently needed to build a civilized digital educational culture. This paper discuss what CPD demands and why it matters?

Keywords: CPD, Digital skills, Professional efficiency, Educational advancement

Introduction:

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) is indeed crucial for the development and efficiency of teachers. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes the importance of continuous professional development (CPD) for teachers, particularly in digital skills.

1. **Integration of Technology:** NEP 2020 highlights the need for integrating technology in education to enhance learning outcomes. This includes the use of digital tools and platforms for teaching and learning.
1. **Continuous Learning Opportunities:** The policy recommends providing teachers with continuous opportunities for self-improvement and learning the latest innovations in their profession. This includes local, regional, state, national, and international workshops, as well as online teacher development modules.
2. **Digital Literacy:** Recognizing the importance of technology, NEP 2020 focuses on digital literacy and the integration of technology in education. This aims to equip teachers with the necessary digital skills to effectively use technology in their teaching practices.
3. **Skill Development:** The policy promotes creativity, understanding, and practical application of knowledge, encouraging skill development. This includes fostering a culture of lifelong learning and aligning education with employability.

Overall, NEP 2020 aims to transform the education system by equipping teachers with the necessary digital skills and providing continuous professional development opportunities. This is crucial for adapting to the rapidly evolving educational landscape and ensuring that teachers can effectively use technology to enhance student learning.

Some key aspects of CPD for teachers for Augmenting Teaching Skills_includes

1. **Enhancing Teaching Skills:** CPD allows teachers to refine their teaching methods, explore innovative approaches, and adapt to changing educational landscapes.
2. **Staying Updated:** By participating in ongoing learning, teachers can keep up with curriculum changes, new pedagogical techniques, and advancements in their subject areas.
3. **Specialized Knowledge:** CPD enables teachers to delve deeper into specific topics, gaining specialized knowledge that enhances their expertise.
4. **Classroom Management Techniques:** Teachers can learn effective classroom management strategies through CPD, improving student engagement and behaviour.
5. **Professional Networks:** CPD events provide opportunities for teachers to connect with peers, share experiences, and build valuable professional networks.
6. **Reflective Practice:** Engaging in CPD encourages self-reflection, allowing teachers to evaluate their teaching practices and make informed improvements.
7. **Meeting CPD Requirements:** Many educational institutions and accrediting bodies require teachers to participate in CPD to maintain their professional qualifications.

Hence, Continuous Professional Development (CPD) is a crucial aspect of career growth, especially in the digital age.

What is CPD?

CPD or Continuous Professional Development, refers to supplementary learning that professionals undertake to enhance their abilities in the workplace. It goes beyond passive learning and becomes conscious and proactive, allowing you to apply new skills effectively. CPD methods include workshops, conferences, e-learning, and online courses.

Why is CPD Important?

- **Skill Enhancement:** CPD helps you stay proficient and competent in your field, ensuring that neither your academic nor practical qualifications become obsolete.
- **Adaptability:** In a dynamic work environment, CPD enables you to adapt to changes and prepare for future roles.
- **Commitment to Self-Development:** Engaging in CPD demonstrates your commitment to continuous learning and professionalism

2. Digital Skills and CPD:

- For teachers, CPD allows exploration of new digital tools, enhancing teaching practices.
- Bridging the digital skills gap requires a foundation of adaptable individuals who value continuous learning. CPD isn't just about maintaining your current skills, it's about thriving in an ever-evolving professional landscape.

DIGITAL SKILLS

Digital skills incorporate several abilities that relate to technology, including computer software and applications, digital devices and other computer hardware. These skills involve a range of tasks using digital literacy and computing methods. Regardless of the field in which you work, developing general technological abilities and the digital skills is significant to your workplace which can help you perform your work responsibilities more efficiently. Understanding the basic use of technological systems allows you to adapt faster to emerging technologies and digital workflows. Educators need to incorporate these digital abilities along with traditional teaching methodologies. Blended learning is the recent classroom technique involved in the educational system. It can be effectively used now a days by teacher with all such technological abilities.

Ways to enhance digital skills

Improving your digital skills is essential in today's highly technological society. Here are some steps you can take to boost your digital proficiency:

1. **Focus:** Identify the skills most relevant to your current position or desired career. Understand what's essential and prioritize accordingly.
2. **Choose a Learning Format:** Explore various options for learning new skills.
 - **Online Courses:** Platforms like Coursera offer a wide range of digital courses.

- **Digital Boot camps:** These intensive programs provide hands-on training.
 - **Certifications:** Obtain recognized certifications in specific areas.
 - **Self-Paced Education:** Learn at your own pace using online resources.
3. **Research Additional Resources:** Beyond formal courses, seek out blogs, tutorials, and videos related to the skills you want to improve. Stay curious and explore different sources.
 4. **Practice Consistently:** Apply what you learn by practicing regularly. Whether it's coding, data analysis, or digital marketing, consistent practice helps reinforce your skills.

Digital literacy is about more than just technical knowledge. It's also about effective communication, problem-solving, and innovation. Educators need to keep learning and adapting to stay ahead in the digital world. In the 21st century, digital literacy, competence, identity, and intelligence are indeed crucial skills, particularly for educators. They enhance the teaching-learning experience and students get actively engaged in classrooms.

Let's analyse these concepts:

1. Digital Literacy: This encompasses the ability to find, evaluate, and use information effectively in digital environments. It involves understanding how to navigate online platforms, critically assess information, and apply digital tools for learning and communication.

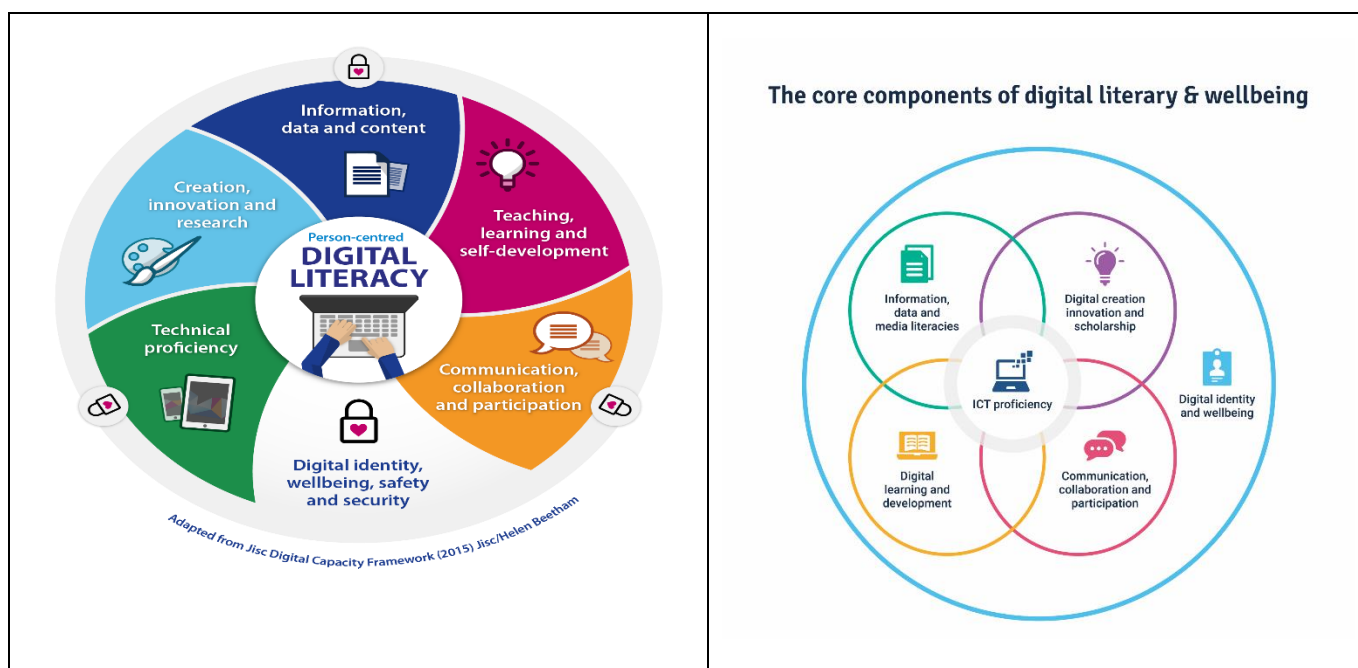
2. Digital Competence: This goes beyond literacy. It involves practical skills in using digital tools, software, and applications. Competent individuals can create content, collaborate online, and adapt to new technologies. For teachers, competence means designing pedagogically sound learning activities using digital platforms.

3. Digital Identity: This refers to how individuals present themselves online. It involves managing one's online presence, privacy, and reputation. For educators, understanding digital identity is essential for modelling responsible behaviour and guiding students in creating positive online footprints.

4. Digital Intelligence: Also known as digital emotional intelligence, this skill relates to understanding and managing emotions in digital contexts. It includes empathy, ethical decision-making, and respectful communication online. Educators with digital intelligence can foster positive online interactions and promote digital well-being.

Teachers play a critical role in shaping students' digital skills. By developing these 4D skills, educators can enhance knowledge transfer in online environments and prepare students for the

digital world. Learning all these digital skills definitely help educator in career growth and development.



Continuous learning plays a crucial role in bridging the digital skills gap. Here are some strategies to achieve continuous professional development. we need to create a Learning Culture and raise an environment where learning is valued and encouraged. Organizations should champion a growth mind set and adaptability. When educators embrace continuous learning, they become better equipped to handle digital transformation.

Focus on Durable Skills: These foundational skills, also known as soft skills or transferrable skills, are essential for digital transformation. Such as Adaptability which is the ability to learn and thrive in a constantly changing environment. Collaboration and Communication is Vital for maximizing the value of digital ecosystems. Creativity and Innovation have power to transform digital knowledge into new knowledge dimensions.

Conclusion

Continuous Professional Development is of utmost importance for teachers. By actively engaging in ongoing learning and development, teachers can enhance their teaching skills, stay updated with curriculum changes, develop specialised knowledge and skills, improve

classroom management techniques, build professional networks, foster reflective practice, and meet the requirements of continuing professional development. Several local and global universities in developing comprehensive digital literacy frameworks have been initiated to strengthen educator's digital competencies in the era of the globalization. These initiatives indicate a dynamic and progressive efforts in the development of more comprehensive and adaptive frameworks to face the challenge of a fast-growing digital educational society. CPD is expected to bring radical change in the teaching-learning scenario.

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Exploring the Ethnobotanical Significance of Palmyra Palm (*Borassus flabellifer* L.) for Sustainable Development in *Vikasit Bharat 2047*"

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Abstract

Borassus flabellifer L., commonly known as Palmyra or Palmyra Palm, has been integral to India's ethnobotanical heritage for centuries. This paper explores its multifunctional uses—from food and medicine to fibre and eco-friendly materials—and its role in fostering sustainable livelihoods. With India's ambitious vision of *Vikasit Bharat 2047*, focused on inclusive, green, and technology-driven growth, the Palmyra palm offers promising opportunities to enhance rural economies, promote climate resilience, and conserve biodiversity. This research reviews the ethnobotanical importance, evaluates sustainable value chains, and proposes integrated approaches to mainstream the Palmyra palm for holistic national development.

Key words: *Borassus flabellifer*, Palmyra palm, Palmyra sap

Introduction

Borassus flabellifer L., a large dioecious palm species native to tropical regions of India and Southeast Asia, is often referred to as the "tree of life" due to its multifaceted utility [1]. Its resilience to harsh climatic conditions, drought tolerance, and ability to grow on marginal and arid lands make it a crucial resource for sustaining rural livelihoods in semi-arid regions of India such as Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal [2].

Historically, indigenous communities have utilized almost every part of the Palmyra palm, from its fruits and sap to leaves and timber, for food, beverages, medicinal products, handicrafts, construction, and even as writing material. Ethnobotanical knowledge surrounding this palm embodies centuries of traditional wisdom for sustainable natural resource management [3].

Against the backdrop of the Government of India's vision for "*Viksit Bharat 2047*," which targets economic growth alongside ecological sustainability and social equity, integrating Palmyra palm-based agroforestry, value addition, and community entrepreneurship can be a pathway to climate resilience and rural empowerment [4].

This paper aims to comprehensively explore the ethnobotanical significance of *Borassus flabellifer* with a focus on its applications for sustainable development, drawing lessons from cultural heritage and recent scientific advancements.

Ethnobotanical Significance of *Borassus flabellifer*

Traditional uses and cultural importance

- Food and beverages: The juice (toddy or neera), fruit pulp, and jaggery produced from Palmyra sap serve as nutritious, natural sweeteners with medicinal benefits [5].
- Medicinal properties: Various parts of the palm exhibit pharmacological activities such as antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, hepatoprotective, and digestive aid properties [6].
- Craft and construction: Leaves are used for weaving mats, fans, baskets, and thatching roofs; timber and leaf stalks serve in building materials [3].
- Writing materials: Historically, treated leaves have been used as palm leaf manuscripts for ancient texts, underscoring its cultural importance [3].

Ecological and climate resilience roles

- Adaptability to arid and semi-arid climates with low rainfall and poor soils [7].
- Soil stability, biodiversity conservation, and carbon sequestration benefits from Palmyra-dominated agroforestry systems [8].

Sustainable Development Implications for *Viksit Bharat 2047*

Contribution to rural livelihoods

- Income generation through harvesting and processing of value-added products such as jaggery, candy, beverages, handicrafts [9].
- Empowerment of women and youth via small-scale industries and cooperatives [10].
- Low-input, eco-friendly cultivation preserving traditional knowledge and promoting bioeconomy [10].

Opportunities for value chain enhancement

- Adoption of modern post-harvest technologies to improve product quality and market reach [11].
- Organic and sustainable certification potential to access health-conscious and international markets [12].
- Potential for eco-tourism and cultural heritage promotion in Palmyra-growing regions.

Policy perspectives and recommendations

- Integrate Palmyra palm conservation into national agroforestry and sustainable land-use policies [13].
- Incentivize farmers and entrepreneurs towards Palmyra-based agri-business as part of climate action commitments.
- Support research and extension services on propagation, pest management, and product innovation.

Conclusion

Borassus flabellifer L. embodies a unique intersection of ethnobotany, environmental sustainability, and socio-economic development. Harnessing its full potential aligns closely with the goals of Vikasit Bharat 2047 to create an inclusive, resilient, and prosperous India. By blending ancient knowledge with modern innovation, Palmyra palm can significantly contribute to sustainable rural development and green economic growth.

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Role of libraries in Viksit Bharat 2047

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Abstract:

India's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047, as envisioned in the "Viksit Bharat" initiative, places knowledge and innovation at the forefront. Libraries, as cornerstones of knowledge and culture, are vital to achieving this vision. This article explores the transformative role of libraries in shaping a knowledge-driven society, addressing challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, digital divide, underfunding, and lack of awareness. Libraries are crucial for fostering an inclusive, knowledge-driven society by serving as centres for digital literacy, innovation, and community development. Their role involves adopting modern technologies like AI, bridging the digital divide, preserving Indian Knowledge Systems, promoting lifelong learning, and serving as dynamic hubs for education and sustainable development to empower citizens and achieve national goals.

Introduction:

"Viksit Bharat" is the theme of the Indian government's vision to make India a developed nation by its 100th year of independence in 2047, and it has also served as the theme for the 78th Independence Day celebration. The term translates to "Developed India" and encompasses various aspects of national development, including economic growth, social progress, environmental sustainability, and self-reliance. Education should not be limited to academics. A Viksit Bharat will emphasize holistic development, nurturing values like critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and emotional intelligence. This could involve incorporating sports, arts, and social service into the curriculum.

Key Contributions of Libraries to Viksit Bharat 2047:

1. Youth Empowerment: Libraries empower the youth by offering access to educational and career resources. They also facilitate international collaborations for knowledge exchange and adoption of global best practices. In essence, libraries are dynamic and vital institutions that significantly contribute to India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047. Through their diverse services and community-driven initiatives, libraries are not just repositories of knowledge but agents of transformation in the journey toward
2. Knowledge Hubs: Libraries serve as essential access points for information, supporting education, research, orientation, and the lifelong learning process for all age groups.
- 3.. Cultural Preservation: Libraries play a key role in preserving India's cultural heritage, including indigenous literature, traditional knowledge systems, and historical documents.
4. Capacity Building in the Library Profession: Libraries offer continuous training and development opportunities for librarians and other community members, thus strengthening the profession and promoting excellence.
5. Promoting Digital Literacy: By offering access to technology, training, and digital resources, libraries help bridge the digital divide and foster digital inclusion.
6. Community Engagement: Libraries function as community centres, offering programs and services tailored to various groups, thereby promoting social development and inclusivity.

Role of Library in Country Development:

- **Knowledge Dissemination and Digital Literacy:**

Libraries will provide crucial access to information, digital resources, and training to build digital literacy among citizens, enabling their active participation in a knowledge-driven society.

- **Bridging the Digital Divide:**

They are vital in bridging the digital divide by offering equitable access to information, especially for underserved rural and community populations, thereby promoting inclusivity.

- **Fostering Innovation and Research:**

Libraries will act as hubs for research, innovation, and capacity building, supporting the development of new ideas and technologies, and encouraging collaboration between different stakeholders.

- **Promoting Indian Knowledge Systems:**

Libraries play a role in preserving, digitizing, and integrating Indian Knowledge Systems into modern educational and community frameworks, aligning with national goals.

- **Community Empowerment and Social Change:**

They empower communities by providing services that support social and economic development, fostering informed citizenship, and acting as agents of social change.

- **Sustainable Development:**

By supporting lifelong learning, environmental literacy, and community development, libraries contribute directly to India's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a sustainable future by 2047.

Conclusions:

- Libraries supported research and innovation by providing access to scholarly literature and research tools.
- Library Provide access to a wide range of information resources, including books, e-books, print journals, e-journals, Newspapers, magazine and digital database.
- In the digital age libraries play a crucial role in promoting digital literacy.

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