

## FEATURES OF THE SMART LIBRARY

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**Abstract:** *Information and Communication Technology has helped to transform the traditional library into Smart Library. Imparting knowledge in society is an important role of a library. Traditional libraries have played their role successfully with their limitations. Today's world is recognized as a digital world. Information and Communication Technology has changed the demand of information and according to this change, libraries have also had to change their mode of services. Smart libraries are playing a vital role to fulfill the demands of users in the digital era. This paper discusses the concept, functions, and features of Smart Libraries.*

**Keywords :** *Smart Library, Concept of Smart Library, Elements of Smart Library.*

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### **Introduction:**

Information and Communication Technology has changed the face and mode of libraries. Traditional libraries have huge information in the printed form such as books, journals, magazines, and newspapers and have to maintain it by catalogue, reference service, manual circulation and by other library services. It means that traditional libraries have to handle and disseminate information manually. But the information and communication technology and its application in libraries has challenged the traditional way of library function. Traditional libraries are not able to maintain the rapidly growing information invented by ICT in various forms and are not able to reach the end users. Libraries have their own function to fulfill the demands of users. ICT has not only challenged the function of libraries but also changed the demands of users. They don't want to visit and collect books from the library. They want to access their required information within a few minutes anywhere, anytime, even at remote places. In contrast, smart libraries are able to fulfill the demands of users. Smart libraries allow users to access information anytime and anywhere. Users can access information from smart libraries at their home, at their working place, even at a remote area wherever they are within a few minutes with internet facilities on their mobile devices.

### **Objectives:**

1. To study about the smart library.
2. To study about the elements of the smart library.
3. To find out the role of smart library.
4. To find out the features of smart library.

### **Concept of Smart Library:**

Smart library is to provide library services faster to its users through various applications, software with the help of Internet connection. Smart library allows the users to access its information anywhere and anytime on their mobile devices such as Mobile Phone, Smart Phone, Laptop, and any other devices.

### **Function of Smart Library:**

Systematic development of the collection, store and organize information and knowledge in the digital form and provides easy and affordable access to it from various locations via internet is an important function of the Smart library. Smart Library provides information in electronic or digital form through the web based library services to its users. (Nahak, 2019)

### **Elements of the Smart Library:**

- Computer Server, High Speed Internet Connection,
- RIFD, Plagiarism Software
- Library Web site
- E-resources
- Scanner, Digital Xerox Machine
- Library Digital gate(Nahak 2019)

### **Advantages of the Smart Libraries:**

**Storage Capacity:** Traditional libraries have their own limitations such as limitations to storage, space, manual work, and services provides by the traditional library. Smart libraries havenot such limitations. They have the capacity to store the huge information available in electronic or in digital form.

**Money Saving:** Traditional library has to spend large money for the human resources, on book maintenance, on book purchasing etc. and have to purchase more copy of the same books on contrary smart library need not to purchase more copy of the same book and need not to spend large money on the maintenance of the books.

**No Physical Boundary:** Users of the Smart Library need not to go the library physically as traditional library confined within some area. There is no need to users visit the library physically and access the books or any required information. Information of the smart library can be accessible to the users across the world with the help of Internet connection.

**Time Saving:** Smart Library saves the time of the users as we know that there is no need to visit library physically. It means that users can access the information of the smart library anytime whenever and wherever he wants.

**Sharing Information:** Resource sharing means common use of (each other's) resources by two or more libraries (Modern Library Services). Information explosion has been taken place in this era because of the Information and Communication Technology. Rapid growth of

information and advancements of the new methods of information have made us to share the resources. It is not possible to a library to maintain and make available all the information and resources. They form consortia and networks to share online resources like databases, online journals and books, etc. One library can make available the required information to the users from other library and it could become possible only because of the sharing information of a library to other library. Traditional library has limitation to share such information.

**Remote Access:** It could become possible to access the information from the library at the remote area. Users of the smart library are able to access the required information anywhere i.e. at home, at working place and anytime through the internet connection on his device. There is time limitation and limitation of physical boundary. Users can access available e-resources, audio-visual information on their devices.

### **Smart Library Services :**

- Library Marketing & Promotion services, Newsgroups
- Discussion Forum, Start Page, Home Page.
- Electronic Board Services, Linking different datasets.
- Ask the librarian, Contact us, Feedback Process.
- Collaborative Digital Reference Services.
- Electronic document delivery Services
- Open access publishing, Metadata schemas. (Nahak 2019)

### **Role of Smart Library Librarian:**

Information communication Technology and its application to the library have brought challenges to the library professionals. In the rapid changing environment librarian must be enhance his professional qualities to fulfill the demands of the library users therefore he must be focus on the requirement of the smart library users. Librarian must know new services and sources of information as well as new techniques for dissemination the information effectively (Johnson 2012). Librarian of the Smart library is not only a manager of the library but also library and information officer. He is a Search Intermediary, Shifter of Information Resources and facilitator, trainer and knowledge manager (Nahak 2019). Librarian of the Smart library must have a future vision. He must be avisionary through which he can be able to face the future challenges he has to face.

### **Conclusion:**

Smart Library is a new concept of library has adapted the changes brought by the new technology. It has many features that facilitate to the users to access the information from the library without physical visit. It has huge storage capacity to store the huge information. Users across the world can access the information from the smart library anytime and anywhere within few minutes on their mobile devices. Smart library can share their information forming consortia to the other library which collaborate to the smart library. Smart library with its feature can really disseminate the information across the world effectively and serve the society. Hence we can say that smart library is the need of the digital era.

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