

Professional Values and Ethics of LIS Professionals in Digital Era

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Abstract

Library & Information Science (LIS) Profession has a specialized knowledge, skill and creative ability. Values and Ethic governs the persons conduct, commitment, behavior, character and morality. This entry discusses many of the ethical considerations in the library and information science professions: collection development, censorship, privacy, reference services, copyright, administrative concerns, information access, technology-related issues, and problems with conflicting loyalties. As a final caveat, it indicates that ethical decisions require deliberation and reflection. To act according to the ethic librarian should have good physical health and certain amount of vitality. LIS Professional must be governed by the democratic principles. Librarian should not be avoiding core functions of the librarianship while adopting the modern technicians of information and communication technology (ICT). LIS Professionals must familiarize with all available all sources. The present paper highlights the theoretical concept of LIS Profession, Digital Library, Digital Era and Values and Ethics of LIS Profession.

KEYWORDS: LIS Profession, ICT, Digital Library, Dublin Core, Meta Data and Ethics.

1. INTRODUCTION

Library professionals play an extremely important role in society. Their mission is essentially to provide members of society with access to the information that they need. Just like doctors, lawyers, and other professionals, library professionals would like to carry out their mission in an ethical manner. LIS professionals need to be able to engage in ethical reasoning. In particular, since these ethical dilemmas fall within the scope of information ethics, library professionals need to have a good working knowledge of information ethics

Man is really enthusiasm person. He always developed his life and do new inventions. He developed every field. IT revolution has changed the traditional library into a digital library. In 1452 Gutenberg invented the printing technology and due to this technology storage of information becomes easy. Impact of computerization aspect of changed the function of the libraries. At present Digital Libraries has become essential to render the Library services. "The concept of digitization means converting or translating a piece of information into bits.

Piece of information includes a book, sound recording or video. It is the basic unit in the computer. Converting information into above referred binary digits is known as digitization. In the context of input and output in digitization 'Physical Object' is input and electronic photograph is an output i.e. making a electronic photograph of physical object." It surveys the factors that affect ethical deliberations in the information professions: social utility, survival, social responsibility, and respect for individuality. It also looks at professional factors in ethical deliberations, such as professional codes of ethics, and the values that support ethical principles of professional conduct: truth,

tolerance, individual liberty, justice and beauty. In the final section, it indicates the kinds of actions to promote ethical conduct at the organizational, professional and individual levels. It has to be honest as someone else may base his or her thinking on our present research carried out earlier. Hence, our present research process has to be honest. In other words, there should not be any manipulations in measurement and data collection. One need not go after any populist idea. Researchers' commitment is to the truth."² Ethics are required to users, profession, colleagues, organization and society the whole. A library professional owes certain obligation to the libraries public and its books, the library professional organizations. The term ethics is derived from the Greek word ethos which means custom or character. According to the oxford English dictionary ethics is a science of morals; the department of study concerned with the principals of human duty. LIS professionals regularly face ethical dilemmas that fall within the scope of information ethics. In order to deal effectively with these ethical dilemmas, library professionals need to have a good working knowledge of information ethics. Codes of professional ethics can help to provide such knowledge, but they are not sufficient. Courses on information ethics must be part of the education of information professionals. Such courses should certainly consider concrete practical cases. In the absences of the professional ethics of the Librarianship it is impossible to archive the desired target.

2. DIGITAL LIBRARY

"Digital libraries are a set of electronic resources and associated technical capabilities for creating, searching, and using information. In this sense they are an extension and enhancement of information storage and retrieval systems that manipulate digital data in any medium [text, images, sounds; static or dynamic images] and exist in distributed networks. The content of digital libraries includes data, metadata that describe various aspects of the data [e.g., representation, creator, owner, reproduction rights, and metadata that consist of links or relationships to other data or metadata, whether internal or external to the digital library]"³

"The American Digital Library Federation has defined the digital library as. Digital Libraries are organization that provide the resources including the specialized staff, to select structure offer intellectual access to ,interpret,distribute,preserve the integrity of and ensure the persistence overtime of collection of digital works so that they are readily and economically available for use by a defined community or set of communities."

2.1 Characteristics of Digital Libraries

The structure of Digital Library which includes text, audio, video, image and computer programmers, graphics and multimedia components in digital form. The Digital Libraries requires number of technological sources. The Digital Libraries provides large information for primary and secondary information sources. Digital Library needs different types of links. Digital Library preserves old material and develops it as per need of the users.

3. DIGITAL INFORMATION ERA

"The post Industrial Revolution Era brought significant changed in the S and T development that had revolutionized the concepts and applications. According to Denies Bell, the information revolution had captured and changed roles of individuals from blue-collar to white-collar jobs. The concept of even the libraries where a host of activities are

surrounded. Thus along with the shift in the key concept of information producers and information providers and information providers.”⁵

Library is a bridge between knowledge generator and knowledge users. As the role of the libraries changes to so will that of the librarian from custodian to navigator and evaluator of information and information resources, a role that is absolutely crucial in the new digital environment where there are great quantities of information, but finding the quality the quality in that huge haystack is difficult task. The crucial change in role involves in understanding, capturing, structuring the tacit and explicit knowledge in proper order and content management.

3.1 Digital Libraries Software's

Several digital library software's are currently available like Green stone Digital Library, Dspace, Eprints, Fedora, etc. These are open source software's. These software's available freely for download on the internet. We will provide here a brief account of digital library software available in public domain.

- **Dspace:** Dspace has been developed in partnership between Hewlett Packard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology [MIT]. Development is still in progress but as intuitional repository software. Dspace is making its mark, with an increasing number of institutions around the globe installing, evaluating, and using the package. The latest version is 1.2 available for download at the Dspace web site. Dspace be installed on a Linux or a Unix machine. Dspace accepts all forms of digital materials including text, images, video and audio files. Possible content includes: article and preprint, technical report, working papers, conference papers, e-theses, databases, audio files, video files, learning objects and reformatted digital library collections.
- **Greenstone Digital Library.** The Greenstone Digital Library software is produced by the New Zealand Digital Library Project at the UniversityWaikato, and distributed in cooperation with UNESCO and the Humanities Library Project. This software available under the term of the GNU General Public License and run on windows and UNIX platforms. The distribution includes ready to use binaries for all versions of Windows and for Linux. It also includes complete source code for the system, which can be compiled using Microsoft C++ or gcc.
- **Ganesha Digital Library** This software developed Indonesian Digital Library Network and version available is 3.1. Ganesha Digital Library makes institutions or individuals to share knowledge and also access and utilize available knowledge in the Indonesian 'giant memory through the network of Indonesia DLN digital libraries. The software available in: Personal, Internet cafe, and institution.

4. MAJOR ISSUES / CHALLENGES

Creating effective digital libraries poses serious challenges. Some of the more serious issues facing the development of digital libraries are:-

- ❖ **Technical Architecture :-** Libraries need to enhance and upgrade current technical architecture such as:
 - A High speed located network and fast connection to internet.
 - Full text search engine index provide verity of server.
 - Web services provide verity of server.

- ❖ Building Digital collection:- Most important is to organize the digital collection which library has digitized material and get original digital work. Availability of e.g. unique collection.
- ❖ Digitization: Digitization is a conversion of book, journal articles, photo, paintings and micro film into electronic form.
- ❖ Metadata: - Meta data is the data describe the content to include item on digital library. Metadata is key of resources and searched use any document like library catalogue. The “Dublin Core” is promoting schemes.

4.1 **Some findings on Digital Environment / Users:**

- ❖ Digital information is popular and has increased demand.
- ❖ Diverse set of users.
- ❖ Huge volatility and use variety of sources with no Loyalty, Trust, and Branding and Report behavior [return visit].
- ❖ Read shorter articles online [‘digital osmosis’].
- ❖ Expect instant gratification with just enough attitudes.
- ❖ Self judge authenticity and relevance.
- ❖ Increased use of older material.

4.2 **Implications of Digital Environment on Libraries:**

- ❖ No more prominent players in information provision and management.
- ❖ Lost reference service and archival functions.
- ❖ Filtering responsibility shifted to users.
- ❖ Users snatched control of organization of information.
- ❖ Access and convenience over ride validity and quality.
- ❖ Cheap and easy digitization expanded the reach and also brought some use for traditionally less used content.
- ❖ Self searching and relying on SEs replaced delegated searching and relying on library.
- ❖ User confused by variety of platforms; try trial and error mode.
- ❖ Self evaluation is a key element of digital literacy.
- ❖ Online catalogs are to access specific items rather than IR; OPAC expected to have links to online contents.
- ❖ Increase collections, enhance content and functionality improves usability; list libraries that own an item.
- ❖ Access management with risk tolerance for litigation.

5. **CONCLUSION**

Users demand increased so, the present scenario of LIS professionals changed and the concerned with to provide relevant information to the users. As the role of the libraries changes so will that the role of the librarians also have to be change i.e. librarian from custodians to navigator and evaluator of information resources. Dr. Ranganathan, Speaking about the profession of librarianship in India, reminded the library professionals that The Library Profession is a noble profession. It can do no harm to anybody. Code of ethics focuses on five elements that are users / readers, professionals, colleagues, organization and the society.

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