



ROLE OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN RESEARCH

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Introduction

The evolving intellectual and research environment is redefining the academic library profession. The function of the librarian in research has undergone significant shift as a result of changes in higher education and technological advancements. Libraries are increasingly instructing scholars on how to handle their research inquiries and achieve their goals on a somewhat greater scale. In order to suit the needs of scholars, libraries of this generation work to offer high-quality scholarly collections and resources. By creating a setting that fosters the growth of the researcher's abilities and skills, libraries are paving the way for the provision of information to users. In the standard mission parameters established by Academic Libraries, research support is frequently noted as a key pillar. Libraries are increasingly instructing scholars on how to handle their research inquiries and achieve their goals on a somewhat greater scale. In order to address the needs of research, libraries of this generation work to offer top-notch scholarly collections and resources. Libraries are laying the foundation for information delivery to users, lending, and online reading list services, serving as a key pillar in the process.

Academic libraries typically serve two complimentary objectives and are connected to a parent organization or educational institution.

1. To bolster the curriculum that the parent body follows
2. To aid with the research projects that faculty and students are working on.
3. E-resources are accessible through contemporary academic libraries. Academic libraries should be aware of their users' demands as well as the college or university's mission and numerous academic programmes. Academic libraries use a programme for collection development in which they also created a rare collection where the requirements for the research can be met. These are commonly known as special collections.

Role of Academic Libraries:

It acts as an archive for the history of the institution, housing documents like dissertations, academic works, UGC rules and regulations, Got gazettes, etc.

1. When it comes to distributing pricey resources like databases and e-books, libraries are essential.
2. Providing a crucial cultural function by organising and preserving artifacts and ideas.
3. Assists researchers in obtaining research funds and contracts, particularly in universities where research is highly valued.

4. With their expertise, libraries significantly contribute to raising the standard of proposals for research funding, which helps the institution win the grant.

Academic libraries have a variety of roles depending on the goals of the parent organisations to which they are affiliated. Some common duties include providing information, managing projects, departments, community relations, reference curriculum, research, classroom support, and remaining current with LIS trends and technology. To achieve long-term success and superior findings, researchers should receive data management training. The work of the academic librarian necessitates the invention of instruments for such support as well as the delivery of specialised research support services. While some conventional libraries are still having trouble with print publications and books, several libraries have made prudent investments in electronic databases and resources to fulfill user needs in this technologically advanced day.

The trends and procedures in research and academic libraries have been impacted by evolving academic pedagogy and the quick development of technology. The academic library has become the hub for all research activity thanks to research support services including bibliometrics, systematic reviews, data management, digital preservation and curation, open access, and open journal publication. When they offer services like research data management, open scholarships, and

bibliometric and systematic reviews of their research work, librarians in academic libraries take on the role of a collaborator. Delivering authorised and trustworthy material to scholars in this era of growing literature presents a significant problem for libraries. The combination of a small budget and an area of information production that is becoming more and more competitive has an effect on the library itself. According to Bourg, Coleman, and Erway (2009), for academic librarians to fully perform their duties as crucial partners in research, they must anticipate, comprehend, and engage with emerging research techniques in order to identify the difficulties and opportunities they present.

1. Revision of their research methodology
2. Expansion of the range of services for supporting research
3. In response to the growing demand for researchers.
4. Academic libraries now occupy a prominent position thanks to open access and open journal publication.
5. Using their specific expertise and skills, librarians contribute to knowledge generation as well as the successful completion of research.
6. Any librarian will inevitably play a part in providing research support services.
7. It is now necessary for the academic librarian to actively participate in the research process rather than just react to it.
8. A proactive strategy is being used to fill the many jobs, such as helping researchers understand and manage the data lifecycle, alternative metrics, competency-based learning, and digital humanities.

Sections of the academic library that can be used by researchers

The Information Desk

Reaching the front desk and asking for assistance is the first step towards comprehending how the library is set up. Additionally, you can obtain other crucial brochures and maps, as well as a description of the library's layout. The majority of libraries have the audiovisual equipment, printers, copywriters, etc. that you could require when conducting research there. A librarian may be a terrific resource for you when you check for various books, articles, or topics.

The Reference Room

Books and other reference materials are available at the library's reference section, where scholars can find quick-reference materials. These books offer fundamental knowledge about a subject, knowledge that might help with investigation. In the reference area of libraries, dictionaries and

encyclopaedias are typically found. While libraries make sure that most individuals can use them at the library, these materials are typically not allowed to be issued or borrowed.

Bibliographies

Our library has two different kinds of bibliographies: a standard bibliography and a contemporary bibliography. Lists of all the publications pertinent to a field over a certain time period can be found in standard bibliographies. While contemporary bibliographies contain more recent works on every given topic. In addition to being published individually, bibliographies can also be found in general reference books and encyclopaedias. You must look through all the bibliographies pertaining to your subject, including traditional and up-to-date lists. Even though it isn't called a bibliography, a library catalogue is one.

The Card Catalog

A card catalogue is a tiny card that catalogues books by their titles, authors, or subjects. For each book, libraries typically contain all three forms of catalogues. However, using an author or book name catalogue is the approach that is most frequently used to conduct a book search

The Periodicals

Periodicals, which include journals, magazines, and newspapers, are the term used to describe the serial material found in the library. For any research, periodicals offer quick and current information. As a result, periodicals are quite useful for study. The majority of periodicals are now accessible both online and in libraries. Typically, students utilize these materials when they are in the library, though the librarian may grant special permission for specific material to be borrowed. The front racks are typically used to display current issues, and the back shelves or stacking area is used to arrange back issues.

Conclusion:

The ability of academic libraries to dynamically and consistently demonstrate their worth to the larger educational endeavor will determine their continued viability. This value needs to be explicitly linked to the investment and documented at a level that goes beyond particular information formats, collecting locations, and user locations. Along with the advancements in research, the library's collection and user services are of utmost importance in opening doors for intellectual communication.

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