

MODERN LIBRARY SERVICES

L. No.	Title of the Lesson	Skills	Activity
14	Modern Library Services	Creativity and innovation, Marketing, Digital literacy, Effective Communication, ICT skills, Problem Solving and Decision Making	Searching Records and Databases, Evaluating and making available Information/information sources from the Library or the Internet

Summary

A librarian, has always been responsible for keeping the information in the form of books. However, a modern librarian is now dealing with information available in various formats like audio-video materials, graphics, full-text and bibliographic databases and digital resources.

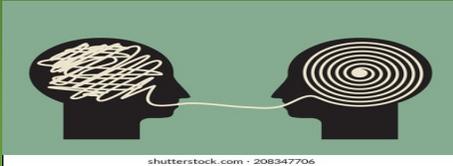
There has been transformation of services from traditional library to the modern library. The concept of digital library has revolutionized the libraries and the modern library services.

Modern libraries have a social function of making knowledge publicly available through the modern services. Also the libraries of the past are now shifting focus and have become more relevant for users by providing value-added library services.

In this lesson, you will study about modern library services, their characteristics and importance for the users.

Principal Points

- The advent of Internet has completely changed the way libraries function. Earlier they focused on collection development, now they are more concerned with connecting and communicating with the users.
- Earlier libraries were considered storehouses of books and other reading material and librarians as custodians, whereas now the libraries are concerned with providing access to the users where and whenever they want to.
- Librarians are no longer custodians but are guardians and purveyors of knowledge who use the new tools and technologies to augment their services towards the users.
- The manual services have been replaced by computerized ones which have proved speedy, prompt and cost effective in nature.
- A modern library is a social organization which uses technologies to offer information services to its heterogeneous population on a 24X7 basis as and when they need them. It does not limit itself to offering “place - based services.”
- The roles of librarians will not diminish in the Internet age, provided they learn and evolve themselves.



Build your Understanding

In present times, the library professionals need to reorient themselves, think creatively and adopt new technology skills to provide services and information resources. This can enable them to update their skill of structuring and organising information for the best possible use.

The electronic library is completely different from physical libraries. Here nothing is ever missing, defaced (torn, mutilated), on loan, lost or misplaced. Whatever the collection, it is always and wholly available to you. No need to wait for your turn in a queue, etc.

What's



1. Reference service is a personalised service in all library and information centres. With shifting technologies and changing approach, this service is nowadays being offered to users in the form of 'Virtual Reference Service', also known as 'Digital Reference Service'.
2. Web-based library services not only save the time of the users, but also save from the fear of not finding what is really required .
3. ICT has enabled many of the conventional library and information services to be provide efficiently, without any time-lag and in a modern computerized environment.
4. The role of librarians is undergoing a tremendous change in the emerging Internet age. So they have to adopt to new technologies in order to serve their users promptly.



1. The Internet has a major impact on how people find and access information. The growing popularity of e-books is moving towards a major change in the reading habits of users.
2. The online services, especially the reference services, offered by modern libraries allow users to pose questions and get answers from the librarians.
3. Digital information is changing the role of librarians to a great extent. They no longer wait for users to come to them and ask for assistance in finding information or services. Their new role makes it imperative for them to provide services and information regardless of place, time or format.
4. To survive in the digital age and stay relevant, librarians and users must embrace both the physical and virtual changes being brought out in the libraries

Extend your Horizon

1. Visit the website of Jawahar Lal Nehru University Library. Write about its computerized services.
2. Visit the website of any library of your choice and write about its collections and services.

Evaluate Yourself

1. Distinguish between manual and computerized services in libraries with reference to current awareness services.
2. What do you understand by Digital Reference Services ?
3. Explain briefly the Web 2.0 tools.
4. List the advantages of computerized services in libraries.
5. Elucidate the role of library professionals in the Internet age.