

Role of Library Information Centers in Supporting Academic Research in Universities

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Abstract: *Contemporary academic Terrain is witnessing a paradigm shift from traditional tutoring models to exploration-ferocious, data-driven fabrics. At the center of this metamorphosis, University Libraries are evolving into dynamic Library Information Centers(LICs), moving beyond unresistant depositories to active mates in knowledge creation. This study analyzes the part of LICs across the exploration lifecycle, drawing on global perspectives from the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, and India. It examines services similar as Research Data Management, bibliometric analysis, and Open Access publishing, and their impact on exploration productivity and institutional visibility. Special focus is given to India's advanced education reforms under NEP 2020 and the One Nation One Subscription action. Despite backing and skill gaps, findings punctuate LICs' critical part in erecting an inclusive, technology-driven exploration ecosystem.*

Keywords: *Contemporary academic Terrain*

I. INTRODUCTION

The university library, formerly viewed primarily as a repository of books, is witnessing a significant transformation in the 21st century, evolving into a Library Information Center(LIC). This shift reflects the impact of digitization and the information explosion, reconsidering libraries as dynamic capitals for access, collaboration, and knowledge creation rather than bare custodians of print collections. With the rise of the Internet and digital education, the focus has moved from the power of coffers to effective guidance and connectivity across different information platforms.

In exploration-driven universities, where institutional character depends heavily on publication affair and citation impact, LICs play a vital infrastructural part by furnishing access to scholarly coffers, digital tools, and exploration support services. Librarians now act as information specialists, supporting experimenters in areas similar as data operation, brand, and Open Access. The emergence of " Learning Commons" further emphasizes collaboration, interdisciplinary engagement, and active knowledge product. In India, this global metamorphosis aligns with public reforms similar as the National Education Policy(NEP) 2020, which highlights libraries as central to exploration, invention, and inclusive education. enterprise like the One Nation One Subscription(ONOS) scheme end to homogenize access to scholarly literature, particularly for under-resourced institutions. Together, these developments are reshaping Indian LICs, situating them as crucial motorists of academic exploration and invention in comparison with global stylish practices.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Global Perspectives : Academic libraries in developed regions similar as the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia illustrate the shift toward advanced exploration Support Services(RSS). Professional bodies like the Association of exploration Libraries(ARL) and SCONUL emphasize bedded librarianship and end- to- end exploration support.



United States Federal backing authorizations from agencies similar as the NIH and NSF have deposited Research Data Management(RDM) as a central library function, with numerous institutions offering technical services for data planning, curation, and preservation. United Kingdom Academic libraries concentrate on demonstrating value and fiscal sustainability amid rising costs and publisher monopolies. Several institutions have moved down from precious subscription packets toward Open Access models, reshaping scholarly communication practices. Australia Guided by the Council of Australian University Librarians(CAUL), Australian libraries are leaders in standardized RDM and experimenter training, with a strong emphasis on developing data knowledge and exploration capability among doctoral scholars.

The Indian environment: In Indian academic libraries are in a transitional phase, balancing modernization with limited coffers. National enterprise similar as INFLIBNET,e- ShodhSindhu, and Shodhganga have strengthened digital access and exploration visibility. still, recent studies indicate that while mindfulness of RSS is adding , advanced services like RDM and brand support remain uneven and are largely confined to premier institutions.

Under NEP 2020, libraries are anticipated to support multidisciplinary exploration, digital knowledge, and multilingual access, while the Anusandhan National Research Foundation(ANRF) is likely to institutionalize the part of exploration librarians in coordinating public exploration sweats.

III. OBJECTIVES

This study is guided by the following crucial objects

1. To dissect the metamorphosis of university libraries into digitally integrated Library Information Centers(LICs) and their part in supporting academic exploration.
2. To examine the impact of digital library coffers and exploration support services(including databases, RDM, and depositories) on faculty exploration productivity and institutional performance.
3. To critically assess the Indian advanced education environment, with particular reference to NEP 2020 and public enterprise similar as ONOS and INFLIBNET.
4. To explore the arising part of Artificial Intelligence(AI) in academic libraries and identify challenges and stylish practices for strengthening exploration support services.

IV. METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a methodical review- grounded logical approach to examine recent developments in LICs encyclopedically and in India during the period 2023 – 2025. The methodology enables a structured conflation of policy documents, professional reports, and scholarly literature to identify prevailing trends.

Data Sources

1. Global and National Reports Publications from professional bodies(ARL, SCONUL, CAUL) and Indian policy documents related to NEP 2020, ONOS, and ANRF.
2. Scholarly Literature Peer- reviewed journal papers fastening on academic libraries, exploration support services, and digital education.
3. Institutional substantiation elect analysis of leading university library websites to examine the compass and nature of exploration support services offered.

V. ROLE OF LIBRARY INFORMATION CENTERS

Library Information Centers(LICs) function as the core structure of university exploration. Their part spans four interlinked areas access to digital databases, information knowledge, exploration data operation, and institutional depositories. Access & Impact Access to high- impacte-resources directly influences exploration productivity, with studies constantly showing a positive correlation between database operation and publication affair. In India, colleges models similar ase-ShodhSindhu have expanded access to journals ande-books, while the One Nation One



Subscription(ONOS) action represents a transformative step by furnishing civil access to leading scholarly journals, significantly reducing institutional difference.

Integrity & AI LICs play a central part in promoting exploration integrity through plagiarism discovery tools, citation operation systems, and information knowledge programs. With the growing use of generative AI, libraries are decreasingly responsible for fostering AI knowledge, emphasizing ethical and responsible exploration practices. Data & Preservation In Research Data Management(RDM), libraries support the full data lifecycle from data planning to curation and sharing — although advanced RDM services remain uneven in India. Institutional depositories further enhance exploration visibility and preservation, with Shodhganga serving as a public platform for doctoral exploration and reducing duplication of work.

VI. FINDINGS & CHALLENGES

The findings confirm a strong link between effective library service use and faculty exploration productivity. National enterprise like ONOS are critical in bridging India's digital peak by standardizing access to scholarly information. likewise, the shift toward" Learning Commons" has dislocated libraries as cooperative" third spaces" that encourage interdisciplinary exploration. While AI relinquishment in libraries is adding encyclopedically, Indian LICs face structure and skill- related constraints that limit its full eventuality. LICs face patient challenges that limit their exploration support capacity :

1. fiscal Strain Rising subscription costs and reliance on precious" Big Deal" publishing models continue to strain library budgets, frequently forcing subscription cancellations and staff reductions, particularly in lower institutions.
2. Chops Gap A pronounced chops gap hampers service delivery, as numerous librarians warrant advanced capabilities in RDM, AI tools, and digital education. This issue is more acute in India due to limited training openings and resistance to ICT relinquishment.
3. Technological Integration Rapid technological change creates integration challenges, with outdated structure and unreliable connectivity impeding the effective deployment of AI- driven and pall- grounded services.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Insure long- term backing for the One Nation One Subscription(ONOS) action and promote Diamond Open Access models to homogenize scholarly coffers.
2. Institutionalize the part of librarians as nodal officers in exploration integrity and entitlement operation, aligning with the ANRF frame.
3. Invest in AI- integrated Learning Commons to grease cooperative exploration and enhance metadata discovery.
4. Prioritize professional development in Research Data Management(RDM) and AI knowledge to ground the being chops gap.
5. Strengthen institutional depositories by integrating preprints and datasets with global platforms to maximize exploration visibility.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The metamorphosis of the university library into a Library Information Center is n't a bare rebranding exercise; it's a critical adaption to the extremities of the 21st- century knowledge frugality. As this report has demonstrated, LICs are the bedrock of the academic exploration enterprise. Through the provision of flawless access to global databases, the enforcement of exploration integrity via plagiarism discovery and citation operation, and the stewardship of exploration data, LICs directly beget faculty productivity and institutional success. The confluence of the National Education Policy 2020 and the One Nation One Subscription scheme offers a major occasion to leapfrog experimental walls. By standardizing access to knowledge, India is situating its libraries as machines of social and scientific equity. still, realizing this implicit requires prostrating significant fiscal and professional challenges. The future of the academic library lies in its capability to blend the digital with the mortal — using AI and big data to enhance effectiveness while



counting on the expert judgment of librarians to guide experimenters through the ethical and intellectual complications of the ultramodern world. The LIC of the future is n't just a place where knowledge is kept; it's the place where knowledge is made.

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