

Knowledge Management: A New Challenge for Libraries & Information Centres

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Abstract

This paper deals that Knowledge Management (KM) stimulates and manages an environment in which knowledge is created, shares, and used for the benefit of the organization, its people, and its customers or users. The term knowledge management is not a new concept and it has already been introduced as a part of management in different business organizations. This paper also describes the principles of knowledge management as a strategic point of view to the library and information centres. The Knowledge management components must be integrated into a seamless whole, so that process. This paper also describes modules of knowledge management and tools used for knowledge management. Knowledge management is new challenge for library and information centres and for its professional.

Introduction

Knowledge Management (KM) is a discipline that promotes an integrated approach to identifying, managing and sharing all of an organization's Information assets regardless of how or where they are located. Knowledge Management is a major business strategy that many organizations in the public and private sector are adopting. The foundation of KM is the power of learning. No organization can improve without learning something new.

Knowledge Management helps us to share nature and learn from others. Knowledge Management is defined as management of organizational knowledge for creating business value and generating competitive advantage. Knowledge Management is the explicit and

systematic management of vital knowledge and its associated process of creating, gathering, organizing diffusion, use and exploitation. Library & Information Centres have the noble mission of imparting education to all the people of the nation irrespective of caste, sex, age, educational level, etc. Libraries & Information centres can easily have access to the words. Knowledge Management in general, and information technology based KM in particular, is one of the foremost strategic directions being investigated and adopted by many organizations nowadays.

Knowledge Management: Concept

The term Knowledge Management (KM), the latest entity conjured up by the consultancy. Knowledge management is a conscious strategy the right knowledge to the right people at the right time and helping people share and put information into action in ways that strive to improve organizational performance. Therefore, "Knowledge Management is nothing but cupping knowledge". The term Knowledge Management (KM) has been borrowed from the corporate world which was used as a strategy to seek as well as capture the knowledge residing in people's heads and consciousness to help the business remain on the progressive path standing in a keen competitive environment. Libraries and Information centres can easily have access to the words of knowledge very quickly. Thus, today, it is the necessity of knowledge management in libraries, which has opened all channels for disseminating, organizing and making it easily accessible.

Definitions

There are as many definitions of Knowledge Management as there are people on this earth:

According to Lawrence A. Appleg, "Management is personal administration."

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According to Stanley Vance, "Management is simply the process of decision-making and control over the direction of human beings for the express purpose of attaining predetermined goals."

Knowledge management is something different from the definitions

Knowledge management is not only about managing knowledge assets but managing the processes including developing knowledge, preserving knowledge, using knowledge and sharing knowledge.

Growing Technologies and Knowledge Management (KM)

The emerging devices, known as information appliance, are converting information into real and tangible world, with the users being able to get information anytime, anywhere evaluating emerging technologies is a ticklish issue, tracking those models to success and supplement the existing technologies in use at Libraries and Information Centre is essential, failing which tragic submersion is imminent in the information world. The demand of the day is that any user should have a clear understanding of the current and emerging role of comprehensive information and its management in the Library and Information Centre is a pre requisite strategy for the retrieval on need resource material and this is the crux of the knowledge management.

Application of Knowledge Management in Library and Information Centres

The main aim of any library should be maximize the use of limited resources and optimum satisfaction of users by knowledge management. Collection Management of library will be fruitful when top management is able to practice current knowledge management in the organizing for deriving its goals. Today's Library and information centres are not functioning as a repository of information materials. The Library and information centres should spearhead the formulation of new policies, strategies and implementation of knowledge management for rendering qualitative services to its customers for increasing users' faith in the organizing. The application of knowledge strategies means the capturing of all types of knowledge and all types of information available

including tacit and explicit knowledge residing in people's heads and consciousness, and information residing in production, research, marketing as well as many other information sources. Today, all organizations are trying to build an infrastructure which enables people to share explicit knowledge be that through meeting and discussion groups, documents, e-mail, seminars, and project files. The information provided through the digital library system which is nonentity by establishment, in 21st century has become a vehicle for making knowledge. The information in a digital format allows for interactive user interfaces and supports teaching, research, and lifelong learning. In 21st century libraries and information centres should also attach importance to provision of services for people to acquire knowledge and achieve maximum function and efficiency of knowledge information.

Modules of Knowledge Management

The Knowledge Management system is primarily based on eight vital modules such as

- (1) Information
- (2) Expertise
- (3) Collaboration
- (4) Team
- (5) Learning
- (6) Intelligence
- (7) Knowledge transfer
- (8) Knowledge mapping

Tools of Knowledge Management

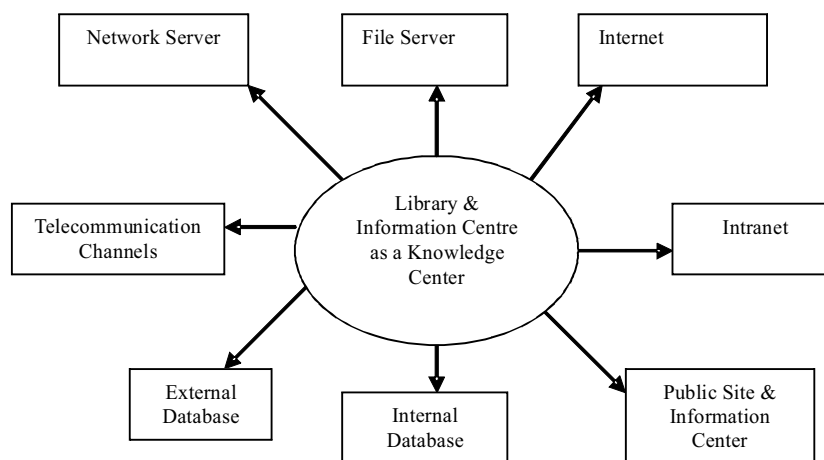
There are some tools, which are being used for the knowledge management:

1. Intranet/Extranet
2. Groupware
3. Electronic Document Management
4. Information Retrieval Tools
5. Workflow Management System
6. Data Analysis
7. Data Warehousing
8. Agent Technologies
9. Help Desk Technologies

- 10. Machine Learning
- 11. Computer Based Training

- 12. Geographic Information Systems
- 13. Metadata

INTERGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT IN LIBRARY & INFORMATION CENTRES



Knowledge Management: A New Challenge for the Library Professionals

Knowledge Management describes the way in which organizations are attempting to capture, enhance and utilise the knowledge necessary for their survival, leveraging knowledge can lead to but multitude of business benefits. Knowledge management is a new revolution in information related areas. The concentration of the information manager so far was in the processing of information and in its provision. But now information alone is terms, processing technical skills, evaluate the possibility of putting information source on to the corporate internet, using communication skills and having the confidence to work with a variety of people and department. With the increasing awareness relating to knowledge management a number of knowledge workers and knowledge managers are beginning to be recognized as performing a new professional role. These personnel's have the skill of research along with sound knowledge of information technology which enables them to cope with the technological development as well as research activities within the organization. Meanwhile, the interaction of this new professional role is feared to spread its fact into the library and information sector. In such a situation the librarians should keep a close vigilance over the

possible changes that may be expected and the impact. In the knowledge economy era, the libraries will attach importance to vocational training and life long education of library staff to raise their scientific knowledge level and ability of acquiring and innovating. Knowledge management in libraries and information centres is to promote knowledge innovation to promote relationships in and between libraries, between library & users, to strengthen knowledge internetworking and to quicken knowledge flow.

Conclusion

Knowledge is a personal ability when it is achieved; it is a corporate asset when it is shared. Knowledge is valuable asset management of knowledge will ultimately affect hiring practices as firms search for employees who are able to handle free and rapid flow of information. Now need seems to be changing or emphasis is now on complete available information. The Library and information profession is not alone in agenzizing about gaining recognition for value of the skills that they bring to their employee or the society.

Library and Information Centres have the noble mission of imparting education to all people of the nation.

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