

Review

Reopening Libraries in COVID 19 pandemic: Problems and Challenges

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India has ranking second largest county population in the World after China. As a precautionary measure COVID-19 pandemic situation, every institution, industry and public domain has been affected with the Coronavirus. The college and the university libraries are also compelled to close libraries. library professionals should also be prepare to reopen the libraries along with the COVID 19. We have a huge responsibility to protect the clientele, staff and the library and providing access to its resources in such a pandemic situation. While reopening the library after the lock down we need to take precautionary measures to slow down and prevent measures against COVID 19. The Library and Information services started to gain importance by providing researchers the opportunity to explore medical and scientific research, while prevention of the disease.

Keywords: COVID-19 Pandemic, Reopening libraries, Preventive measures, Information technology Digital Library resources, services.

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INTRODUCTION

The new corona virus is officially called SARS-CoV-2, which stands for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. or COVID-19. HCoV-19, emerged in China, in late 2019 and is now causing a pandemic (*Van Dormalen, Neelatji et al. 2020*). "Librarians are the bridge between people and the information wants they need." (*Terry Ballard, 2020*). Libraries and around the world have been facing lockdown challenges in providing access to its collections and services. All kinds of libraries have promoted their digital services during the corona virus pandemic situation. The World Wide Web is an Internet system that distributes the web is global providing access e-resources that allows its contents to be interlinked, for storing, organizing, disseminating, and

accessing information (*Noruzi, 2004*). All academic libraries had already given their patrons some kind of access to e-journals, CD-DVD, ebooks, and audiobooks, as well as streaming access to audiovisual products etc. The ones who succeed at this effort will return to libraries that are stronger than ever. Unlike the traditional libraries present trends of libraries includes digital/virtual mode of library collection and also offer remote access facility for their users. The application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), the Internet and particularly the World Wide Web have revolutionized library activities, hence there has been changes in the normal functioning of Libraries in the digital world. The present trend of library resources includes e-books, e-resources, digital library, e-services etc.

Transmitted of Corona virus disease (COVID-19)

COVID-19 is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which spreads between people, mainly when an infected person is in close contact with another person. The virus can be transmitted from an infected person's mouth or nose in small liquid particles when they cough, sneeze, speak, sing or breathe heavily. These liquid particles are different sizes, ranging from larger 'respiratory droplets' to smaller 'aerosols'. Between 24 hours to 72 hours, depend on type of surface. The virus can also spread after infected people sneeze, cough on, or touch surfaces, or objects, such as tables, doorknobs and handrails. Other people may become infected by touching these contaminated surfaces, then touching their eyes, noses or mouths without having cleaned their hands first. (WHO, 2020). International Federation of Library Association (IFLA), American Library Association (ALA), and some other LIS associations have uploaded the precautionary measures on the reopening the libraries to control the pandemic from library.

Guidelines for Reopening Libraries During the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Consult with legal counsel regarding both reopening plans and policies to govern staff and patron access to and use of the facility.
- Review federal, state and local laws that may impact plans and policies, including but not limited to relevant Executive Orders, State Privacy and Confidentiality laws and local municipal directives regarding access to public buildings. Check for frequent updates as policies may need to be adjusted in response to new information about Covid-19 and its spread.
- Review agency guidelines, including but not limited to local health offices, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance on maintaining sanitary conditions and safe spaces, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) guidance on employment issues and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidance on protecting employees in workplaces. Check for frequent updates as policies may need to be adjusted in response to new information about Covid-19 and its spread.
- Consult the American Library Association Bill of Rights and Policy Guidelines for specific guidance on how to balance the interests of safety for staff and patrons with the need to maintain the privacy rights of employees and community members utilizing the library and its resources.
- Be certain that all policies are reasonable and necessary for the safety of staff and members of the community.
- Document why certain policies are deemed reasonable and necessary.
- Draft policies that can be applied objectively by staff and provide staff training on how to enforce the policies.
- Enforce policies consistently.
- To the extent that policies deny access to the facility or library resources, provide an appeal procedure for review of the denial.

Precautionary measures to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Libraries are facing challenges and restrictions in the lockdown. Governments regularly are taking different approaches, sometimes ordering the full closure of all institutions, in these situations library professionals may take following preventive measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 through the libraries:

1. Leg operated Hand Sanitizer at the entrance of the library; whoever enters the library should use it.
2. Entry without face mask not allowed
3. Near Circulation desk – up to 1 meter barricade to be placed.
4. Students to maintain distance while returning/ issue of books.(when the college starts
5. Wearing hand gloves is must for all library staff.
6. All returned books to be sent to Quarantine area designated for the same, to be kept day wise separately.
7. Seating arrangement in reading area – Maintain distance between tables and Chairs (maintain distance of 1 meter between 2 chairs)
8. Use online platforms or social media to share Knowledge/Information.
9. Frequently used items such as magazines and newspapers may only be accessible to people with gloves and masks, etc.
10. Stay home when you are sick.
11. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces every day.
12. Wash your hands often, for every 1-2hours with bath soap or handwash etc, use hand sanitizer also
13. Cleaning of all computers in library with disinfectant every day.
14. Students who bring laptop inside the library to be instructed to clean it with sanitizer.
15. Display of Posters and boards related to social distancing, frequent hand washing and other hygiene procedure.
16. Improved hygiene procedures for cleaning and disinfecting common areas.

17. Encourage or require testing of staff for the virus and/or for immunity to the virus.
18. Keep books at separate place at least for 72 hours when check in/check out
19. Provide remote access of library resources to the users
20. Promote paperless work culture in the libraries
21. Maintain social distance

Free Resources Available in the Library

Sl.No	Name of the Libraries	Description	Web Address / URL
1	World Digital Library	The World Digital Library provides free access to manuscripts, rare books, maps, photographs, and other important cultural documents from all countries.	https://www.wdl.org/en/
2	Project Gutenberg	Provide Project Gutenberg is a volunteer effort to digitize and archive cultural works.	https://www.gutenberg.org/
3	NDLI	Educational materials available for all subject areas like Technology, Social Science, Literature, Law, Medical, etc.	https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/
4	Internet Archives	is a non-profit library of millions of free books, available like movies, software, music, websites,	https://openlibrary.org/
5	Open Text book Library	Is a nonprofit library N , number of free books are available stream of social sciences and sciences.	https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/
6	Open E-books	Receive free access to Open eBooks for Kids	https://openebooks.net/getstarted.html
7	Berkeley Library	Educational materials available for all subject areas like Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences etc.	https://guides.lib.berkeley.edu/FreeResources/sciences

The Five Laws of the Web

The *Five Laws of the Web* are inspired by the "*Five Laws of Library Science*" which were the seed of all of Ranganathan's practice preventing the spread of the coronavirus

1. Web resources are for use:
2. Every user his or her web resource:
3. Every web resource its user.
4. Save the time of the user.
5. The Web is a growing organism.

These laws are as applicable to the current practice of the Web as they will be to the Web of tomorrow. These laws are not only applicable to the Web in general but characterize the establishment, enhancement, and evaluation of online databases and digital library services as well

CONCLUSION

Most of the libraries in India have closed down with assumption that the COVID 19 pandemic chain will break and slow down or come under control. Technological advancements have revolutionized the library services in digital era. The Government is in the process of reopening the educational institutions in near future, ultimately the libraries have also required to re-open with well-prepared strategies. Libraries on the web have become more competent and confident in terms of resource management and digitalization. Provide remote access of library resources to the users, Web chats will be a feature of library programming from now on. When the doors are reopened, patrons will enter with a renewed appreciation for their libraries Information societies are seeking information in digital format, therefore, library services depends upon skilled professionals. This article will provide an Precautionary measures to help prevent

the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) libraries to play proactive role in the present and post pandemic situation.

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