
Development of Green Libraries: An Overview

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Abstract :-

The green Library, also known as a sustainable library, represent a contemporary library model that prioritizes the utilization of natural resources in an environmentally friendly manner. This approach emphasizes the use of renewable resources, minimizes reliance on non-renewable resources, and aims to reduce pollution while lowering maintenance costs for libraries. The objective of this study is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the principles underlying green or sustainable libraries. Currently, many developing countries are transitioning from traditional library systems to green library frameworks. The concept of the green library emerged in the 1990s, and awareness of its benefits has been steadily increasing worldwide. This article explores the concept of the green library, its objectives and characteristics, and reviews recent literature on its key components.

Keywords :- Green library, Sustainable library, Green library systems, Natural resources, Concept of green library and Libraries and Green librarianship.

1. Introduction:-

In the current landscape, the concept of library systems is evolving due to advancements in science and emerging technologies. Developing countries are increasingly striving to meet their growing demands. The notion of green or sustainable libraries is gaining traction globally. These changes represent achievements, innovations, and replacements within the system, prompting

many nations to transform their library infrastructures into environmentally friendly spaces. This transformation maximizes the use of natural resources, promotes renewable resources, minimizes reliance on non-renewable resources, and reduces pollution, ultimately lowering maintenance costs for libraries. The term “green” symbolizes a blend of blue and yellow, signifying a healthy and vibrant existence. In the context of a green environment, library and information science (LIS) professionals must take informed decisions and take proactive measures to incorporate sustainable practices in their libraries, akin to the green library movement. Numerous national and international institutions are providing support to enhance the environmental friendliness of libraries. Nevertheless, it is imperative of management, library professionals, librarians, library users, and government entities to take initiative and actively engage in the green library movement to ensure its success.

2. Review of Literature :-

Vasanthi (2019) emphasizes the initiatives undertaken by prominent institutions and organizations to foster an eco-friendly environment, aiming to establish innovative standards for improvement, accountability, and the active participation of librarians in green library practices, as well as the features and advantages of green libraries, including initiative in India and other nations. **Manna et al. (2019)** investigated the extent to which university libraries implement natural environmental safety measures to create a sustainable atmosphere within their facilities. This research encompassed eight Central University Libraries and six State University Libraries in India, utilizing data collected through structured questionnaires aligned with the IFLA green library guidelines. The study concentrated on the challenges and issues related to environmental sustainability in green libraries. **Sapna and Sunil (2020)** examined the building materials used in green libraries, focusing on waste reduction, the maximization of natural resources, and the enhancement of renewable resources, including lighting, layout, accommodation, and furniture, as well as visual presentation within libraries. **Gupta (2021)** provided a comprehensive perspective on the concept of green sustainable libraries, categorizing four primary measures and practices: green design and interior, the integration of green practices into daily library operations, green collection development and literacy programs, and the adoption of innovative and smart technologies that can be incorporated into library functions. **Kruszewska (2021)**

aimed to minimize waste and negative impacts within libraries, fostering a friendly environment while maximizing the use of natural and renewable resources. This article focused on three objectives: clarifying the term 'green or sustainable library', conceptualizing 'green librarianship', and identifying areas within the green librarianship environment. Ultimately, this paper contributes to the development of methods for library activities and evaluations.

3. Objectives :-

The objectives are as follows :-

- To comprehend the significance and meaning of green libraries.
- To gain insight into the various standards adhered to by green libraries.
- To foster a natural and eco-friendly environment.
- To explore solutions for transforming existing libraries into green or sustainable libraries.

4. Methodology :-

This research paper is approached as a theoretical concept. The methodological framework employed in this article draws upon prior research concerning systems of innovation. A literature review was conducted utilizing online full-text databases such as Emerald, Integrated Digital Library, Yahoo, LISTA, LISA, and Google Scholar, among others. The research relies on secondary data, which encompasses a compilation of research articles.

5. Concept of a Green Libraries :-

The Green Library movement emerged in the early 1990s as libraries began to transition from traditional systems to address environmental concerns. In recent decades, the notion of Green or sustainable libraries has gained traction, leading to increased awareness and literature surrounding the concept. Today, global communities are becoming more environmentally

conscious, prompting the rise of various green library initiatives that significantly impact the natural environment. The term “Green Library” represents an innovative concept and movement. This paper discusses the principles of sustainable libraries, the evolution of green library movements, relevant standards, requirements, developments, characteristics, popularity, and contemporary green library initiatives. Green libraries are recognized based on five key criteria: . Location . Water conservation and preservation . Energy efficiency systems . Building materials . Natural indoor air quality, with an additional category for innovation and design.

6. Features of a Green Library :-

The concept of a green library is defined as an eco-friendly or sustainable library that harmonizes with the natural environment. Such libraries are distinguished essential features, including:

- Implementation of transparent roofing and flooring.
- Energy-efficient window.
- Utilization of natural resources, along with recycled and regionally sourced material.
- Adoption of natural energy-efficient lighting to minimize consumption.
- Preservation and conservation of natural resources such as air, energy, water, paper, and other materials.
- Mitigation of external noise within the library premises.
- Appropriate tree planting both inside the library building.
- Enhanced indoor air quality.
- Employment of environmentally friendly technologies.

7. International Green Libraries :-

- The Library of International campus, Zhejiang University, China
- The Library of Suzhou Library, China.
- Anna Centenary Library, India.
- Biblioteca EP, Colombia.
- National Library of Estonia, Estonia.

- Illyes Gyula Library, Tolna, Hungary.
- Asian Development Bank Library, Philippines.
- Singapore Management University Libraries, Singapore.
- Hampshire Library Service, United Kingdom.
- Vietnamese-German University Library, Vietnam.

8. Conclusion :-

The rapid advancement of science and technology is significantly influencing and transforming our lifestyles. Currently, the demand for various resources is escalating swiftly, and we are leveraging this power to meet our incessant needs. However, it has become apparent that we are neglecting essential responsibilities in our lives, which must be acknowledged before we can effectively discuss the development of green initiatives in this swiftly evolving world. The concept of 'Green' holds substantial importance for ensuring a healthy existence within the library framework. Over the past few decades, there has been a notable increase in interest towards the green revolution across numerous sectors, including libraries. Today, libraries function as research centers, career information hubs, and digital information repositories, playing a crucial role not only in promoting sustainability but also in setting a positive example. It is imperative for libraries to incorporate green practices into their daily operations. There are numerous compelling reasons for integrating eco-friendly features into library buildings, as this is essential for the health of library development and for attracting more users.

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