

User Education: college library perspective

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Abstract

Libraries are playing an important role in all the colleges. At the present information age the role of library and the librarians are becoming challenging and their pattern of work is changing. The user who came to the library should know what library is? And what are the different services provided by the library. Through user education they come to know about the library and the valuable information sources of the library and how to use that source effectively and efficiently for their lifelong learning.

Key words: Definition, Objectives of User Education, Methods of User Education

Introduction

Here two concepts combine together User + Education = User Education. All are users who came to library to use it and fulfill their requirements and Education means to educate them about the library how to use the library information sources for their studies .It should be done at the beginning of each semester .Through user education they know about the activities and services of the library how they use information sources by different tools. From this above concepts we fulfill the 5 laws of Library Science.

Books are for use.

Every Reader his or her book.

Every book its reader.

Save the time of the reader.

Library is a growing organism.

In library our foremost motto is to serve our user.

Definition:

According to Fleming (1990) defines User Education “as various programmers of instructions, education and exploration provided by libraries to users to enable them more effective, efficient and independent use of information sources and services to which these libraries provide access.

Objectives of User Education

User education is a method or technique or we can say that it is a kind of training which should be done in all the libraries to achieve maximum utilization of library by our users :

1. To present the library in front of them in such a way that they attracts towards the library.
2. Introduce about different information sources of library.
3. How to locate/retrieve the sources within a short time.
4. To identify the materials which help them for completion of the course.
5. Help them to identify their own needs and how to meet with their needs.
6. How to search documents manually and electronically like OPAC.
7. To make them independent in their information search.

Current Methods of User Education

1. Lecture method.
2. Tour.
3. Online instruction.
4. Individual instructions at the reference desk.
5. Organizing seminars/workshops.
6. Audio visual methods.
7. Subject related instruction.

Moreover organizing workshops and seminars time to time for the faculty members also to motivate them and that motivation is reflected towards the student and also motivate them.

Conclusion

Due to the advent of Information Technology and information overflow user education is one of the important task for the library to educate their user when they admitted in the college about the value of library and how to use the valuable sources of the library and how to identify that information sources through different tools.

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