UIRC in the New Millennium: A Proposed Visionary Draft

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Abstract
There have been studies on the theme such as, the World by 2020, ASEAN 2020, China 2020, India vision 2020 and so on. In a similar fashion, we are also planning and predicting the future for our UIRC, but that is all a proposal in the form of a draft, subject to the approval of the competent authority in the near future and we are naming it as VISION 2020 for UIRC. Through this proposed draft, we have tried our best to present here the picture of UIRC, which we would like to paint with the colours of infrastructure, resources, documentation, services and facilities and activities. In addition to this, it is also a good source for knowing the brief profile of University Information Resource Centre (UIRC) of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi and to have an idea regarding vision statement.

Keywords: Strategic Vision; Library; UIRC; GGSIPU; Targets and Goals; Strategic Thinking; Living Document; Future Directions; Futuristic Thinking etc.

GGSIP University-An Introduction (Admission Brochure 2009)
Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (hereafter GGSIPU) has been established by Government of NCT of Delhi under the provision of GGSIPU act, 1998. The university is recognized by UGC, India under section 12B of UGC Act. The university has been awarded the ISO 9001:2000 certification by standardization, testing and quality certification directorate, Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communication and Technology, Government of India. It has been accredited “A Grade” by NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council). It is an affiliating and teaching university that aims to facilitate and promote studies, research and extension work in emerging areas of higher education with focus on professional education in the discipline of engineering, technology, architecture, management, medicine, pharmacy, physiotherapy, nursing, education, law, journalism and mass communication etc. and also to achieve excellence in these and related fields and other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Within a span of ten years, the university has been able to make its presence felt the world over. It is running more than 70 programmes in 10 university schools of studies and around 90 institutes (Government as well as self-financing), imparting professional education to more than 47,000 students with an annual intake of about 16,000 students.

This is all a brief introduction about GGSIP University, Delhi. To know more about it, please visit at http://www.ipu.ac.in.

UIRC- A Brief Profile
The central library of GGSIP University is well known by the name of University Information Resource Centre (hereafter abbreviated as UIRC). It was established in September 1999, with the prime responsibilities to supplement the educational and knowledge needs of the students, researchers and its faculty members. It has been consistently building up itself from strength to strength to fulfill its objectives by incorporating the latest technology and talents in providing most cost-effective and time efficient information services to its bonafide members.

Some of the unique facts, associated with UIRC, are mentioned below as:

a) UIRC has a collection of approximately 37700 books and is subscribing to 275 print journals.

b) UIRC is also supplementing its users’ needs by providing digital information resources and services, which are available online on 24x7 basis over the university campus and hostel area.

c) The circulation statistics of UIRC is also very high, on an average ranging from 125-150 books/day.

d) UIRC is a fully automated library with OPAC and
Web-OPAC and provides access to union catalogue offered by DELNET and INFLIBNET and document delivery services through DELNET.

e) UIRC has its own webpage which is ranked 18th (scoring 53 marks and graded as good) among the library websites/web Pages of Indian universities. This is as per the research carried out by Mangala Hirwade of Nagpur University. Moreover, another observation, with respect to content/features of Indian university websites is made by Rajat Chada (Doctoral student, W.W. Wright Education Building, Room 2276,201 North Rose Ave, Bloomington, IN 47401, USA, rchadha@indiana.edu) in university news 46(49), December 08-14, 2008, and as per his statement, “The website of GGSIP university, Delhi, has included most of the content/features (18 out of 20). The Indian universities that do not have many of the content/feature can consider GGSIP university website to decide what content/features need to be included for the process of developing their own website”.

This is in brief about UIRC, more can be known by going through the library link of GGSIP university website available at http://ipu.ac.in.

Vision: An Essential Pre-requisite for the Growth of an Organization

On a clear day you can see forever, this is a familiar song lyric but, it is just a nice thought. In reality, no matter how clear the day, we cannot see very far without having a clear, accurate, well-reasoned vision. Even the Old Testament tells us that without a vision the people will perish (Proverb 29:18 and Hosea 4:14).

A vision statement is future casting, audacious, motivating, purpose driven, inspiring and capitalizes on unique competencies of the organization. ( Poornima, 2007.) A vision thus, provides a road map for future direction and helps employees of an organization to understand their purpose of existence. It also helps in creating an order in the flow of thoughts among the decision makers of the organization and avoids chaos. (Ibid, p.37.)

Definition

It is really difficult to define the word vision in a real sense, but after going through literature reviews, one can be of the view that, there is not a single specific industry-defined definition for this word, however, many intellectuals have defined the term in their own ways, which is much more in proximity to the word vision. Some of the views in defining the term are outlined below as:

1) A vision statement is a powerful picture of what the organization business can and should be a decade from now.

2) A strategic vision is a view of an organization’s future directions and business make up. It is a guiding concept for what the organization is trying to do and to become.

3) A vision is a type of strategic thinking, which is nothing but an ability to think futuristically, seeing the larger picture, which goes beyond what the organization, is currently engaged in; it is the ability to think over longer time horizons and explore revolutionary possibilities.

4) Vision statements are living documents of organizations that clearly and concisely convey the direction and the purpose of the organization and motivate to realize the common vision of the future.

5) A vision is not a project report or a plan target; it is an articulation of the desired end results in broader terms. – A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

6) A vision says something that clarifies the direction in which organizations need to move.– John P. Kotler, HBR

7) The vision describes a future identity—an image of the future, we seek to create. – Peter M. Senge

From the above view-points, the term vision can be explained and concluded in the following lines, which is again a view-point of another intellectual personality named Thompson Strickland, and as per Strickland:

“A strategic vision is a view of an organization’s future directions and business make up. It is a framework of what the organization perceives to do and a picture that the organization would like to portray. The organization strategic vision looks into the future of the organization and the mission tends to dwell upon the present. A strategic vision is a roadmap of a company future—the direction it is headed, the customer focus it should have, the market position it should try to occupy, the business activities to be pursued; and the capabilities it plans to develop. It provides a long term directions, delineates what kind of enterprise the company is trying to become and infuses the organization with the sense of purposeful action. Strategic vision spells out a direction and describes the destination. (Olsen,2007).

Examples of Vision Statement

In the world of globalization we live, we cannot find a single organization without a vision statement, because, without vision, organization cannot survive for long. They are soul-searching endeavors that provide for organizations the reason for being. Every organization needs a vision statement, whether it is a profit-making organization or non-profit making organization like libraries and information centres, because vision statements stir the imagination and motivates all segments and activities of an organization to greater effort. It is another thing that
organization has vision, which may be brief, short, concise and yet comprehensive or long and explanatory. Some of the well known visions of reputed organizations are depicted below as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Vision Statement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BPL</td>
<td>Believe in the best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nokia</td>
<td>Connecting people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philips</td>
<td>Let’s make things better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siemens</td>
<td>Where technology touches lives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xerox</td>
<td>The document company</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vision: Its Origin (Poornima, op. cit.)
According to infor-line (1991) visioning evolved from two planning concepts from the 1950’s and 60’s, i.e.
- Management by Objectives (MBO)
- Strategic Planning
The reason quoted for the evolution of the term vision is to catch the attention and to enthuse the people in an organization.

Need for Vision (Olsen, op.cit.)
The vision for any organization is required for the following reasons:
1) For guiding the managerial decisions
2) For shaping the organization strategy
3) For impacting how the organization is run

Characteristics of Vision Statement (Ibid., p.28.)
As per Thompson Strickland, following are some of the characteristics of a good vision statement:
1) The vision statement provides a picture of what our organization will look like 5 to 10 years down the line.
2) It should have a time horizon of a decade or more
3) The vision statement represents a dream that is beyond what you think is possible.
4) It represents the mountain top of where the organization is headed.
5) Visioning takes you beyond the present.

Benefits of a Visioning (Ibid., p.29.)
A vision is beneficial for some of the following reasons:
1) It empowers people and focuses their efforts.
2) It raises the standard of excellence.
3) It gives hope for the future.
4) It helps an organization prepare for the future.
5) It focuses energy for greater effectiveness.

In a nutshell, we can say that vision ignites the minds. Organizations with a vision achieve great success producing an atmosphere of creativity.

Vision 2020 for UIRC
There have been studies on the themes such as, the World 2020, ASEAN 2020, China 2020, India Vision 2020 and so on Gandhi, (2006). The expression vision 2020 has two meanings: The mundane view would be that it is what can be achieved by the year 2020. On the other hand, in the American idiom, vision 2020 implies perfect vision. (Indiresan, 2004).
The vision statement of UIRC is neither a prediction of what will actually occur, nor simply a wish list of desirables but unattainable ends, rather, it is a statement of what we believe is possible for our library (UIRC) to achieve, provided we are able to fully mobilize all the available resources – human, organizational, technological and financial – generate the requisite will and make the required efforts. (India. Planning Commission, 2004)

This paper is neither a plan nor a projection of what our UIRC will be in 2020. Ten years is too long a period for one or the other. Even our demographic projections, based on the most reliable data and well-documented trends, are only able to estimate the country’s population two decades hence and within a range of 100 million people. How then shall we hazard a projection of the harder to measure eventualities? (Ibid., p.47).
Planning and predictions over such a long time horizons as one decade are beyond our capacities, but we do possess a still greater human endowments that can enable us to envision the real possibilities and to perceive the necessary actions we need to take convert those possibilities in to realities. (Ibid., p.48).

Now the question arises, what are those possibilities that are required to be converted into realities for our UIRC, in the decade to come? Some of these possibilities, which we predict, on behalf of UIRC are outlined below in five sub-groups as:

Infrastructure
Infrastructure gives an organization its strong reliable foundation. Library being the central hub of all the activities of an academic system, it is required to be in good condition. Moreover, good infrastructure paves the way for good ambience, and also for providing efficient services. To the user, best facilities are the pre-requisite for any library. Our vision for a decade to come, with respect to infrastructure may be in the form of:

a) Computer lab for supporting curriculum based learning.
b) Audio-Video (Multi-media) lab for computer based and audio-visual instructional support materials.
c) Conference and discussion rooms for providing access to the free expression of ideas representing all points of view on all subjects essential to an informed citizenry.

d) Cubicles equipped with computers, DVD and VHS players for research scholars and handling special projects.

e) RFID systems for electronic surveillance and for self-check out of documents.

f) CCTV to prevent and detect crime, this include theft and criminal damage and also to improve performance management, working practices and work flows.

Resources

Resources in the form of documents is one of the components of the trio of which library is a sum total. No matter, how good is the infrastructure or the staff to serve the user, yet all are in vain, if we don’t have a right resource for the right user at a right time. This is the basic philosophy around which the whole library and information science revolves.

Time is constantly changing and libraries are marching ahead with electronic resources, which are going hand-in-hand with their print counterparts, so, the e-resources, we are predicting for our UIRC in the near future are:

b) E-journals

c) E-books

d) Digital library in the form of
   i) Electronic thesis and dissertation
   ii) Institutional Repositories
   iii) Open access archives
   iv) Subject gateways
   v) Federated search engines
   vi) Academic archives
   vii) Internet resources
   and the list goes on like this.

With all these resources in hand, we cannot claim that we are self-sufficient to satisfy the needs of our users, therefore resource sharing with our affiliated college libraries is the need of an hour.

Documentation

At present also UIRC is providing services to its user, to check its accuracy to be cent per cent and to make a benchmark in the field of library services, it is required, that our UIRC should be characterized by uniformity, consistency and reliabilities. This can be achieved, if we have proper and well-maintained documentation for the UIRC.

This is again needed, if we go for activities like accreditation. At present our university is NAAC accredited and ISO certified but as desired by our present Vice-Chancellor, we want to go for international accreditation, proper documentation of highest quality is required. This documentation will be in the form of:

a) UIRC user manual
b) UIRC operational manual
c) ISO manual
d) UIRC vision report and many more like this.

Services and Facilities

The libraries are basically a service providing unit of any academic system; whatever we do, we do for our users, and our token of love and affection for our users is in the form of library services and facilities, that we provide to them. The blue print of services of our UIRC in the near future will be predicted in the form of following services:

a) Virtual tour of library
b) Smart card facility
c) Drop out box
d) Section for light reading
e) Virtual and e-learning environment
f) CD-ROM search facilities
g) Advance photo-copier machine
h) Consultancy services
i) News paper clipping services
j) Web-based library services in the form of following:
   i) Live chat facilities
   ii) Frequently asked question
   iii) Did you know
   iv) Ask your librarian
   v) Online feedback regarding UIRC
   vi) Online suggestion and complaints
   vii) Forms downloads
   viii) Virtual reference services
   ix) Alert services
   x) Establishing network for networking with affiliated colleges libraries, etc.

Activities

To bring the university and library (UIRC) on the global map, great efforts are required for activities of international level. These activities may be in the form of national and international seminars/workshops/conferences etc.

Conclusion

Library is basically a sum total of staff, documents and user. In designing and crafting a realistically
effective vision and mission for any library and information centre, it is required that an effective library manager lives in the present but concentrates on the future (James L. Hayes) by analyzing the present problems of its users and cataloguing the untapped potentials and emerging opportunities of its staff members with articulating the effective use of underutilized resources for making the better future for library and information centres. At last, one would like to say that, it is not our capacity for prediction but our action that will determine the outcome because according to a well-known Japanese proverb, “vision without action is a day dream. Action without vision is a nightmare.” But that action needs to be based on proper appreciation of the forces available for accelerating our progress.

Reference
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid., p.47.
5. Ibid., p.48.
6. Ibid., p.28.
7. Ibid., p.29.
12. Poornima, op. cit., p.36.