Abstract
Presently, it is a matter of discussion that, library and librarian will become redundant in the tech-based education system. Some may think that library without wall and library without librarian are the same. Practically these two are quite different from each other. In the virtual library era it is somehow possible to have a library without wall. The role of the librarian and library professional just changes their identity, e.g. Cybrarian, Information Processor, Information Consultant, etc. To cope with the rapid changes of the technology and to control the ephemeral rate of information generation, librarians along with his professional colleagues should have to equip themselves as per the requirement of the electronic information society. In the light of the above, the present paper would like to highlight the reasons why library and librarian is essential in the modern technology based library service era. The paper also tries to point out the role of the librarian in the changing society, services offered by the e-library, e-learning and issues faced by the librarian.

Keywords: Traditional Library, Virtual Library, Digital Library, Technology and Education, Internet, Digitization, Librarian, Cybrarian.

Introduction
The nature of the academic library and the role they play in campus is changing. Libraries are moving towards an information commons model of service, and becoming campus community centers. They invite student and faculty socialization, learning, research, scholarship and instruction. They are most effective when programming, services, and spaces are developed in partnership with others seeking similar educational outcomes. Academic libraries will increasingly provide information and services to their users at right time as per their requirement. Whatever the changes, the traditional roles of a library in an academic community, especially those communities that aren’t changing substantially themselves, will remain valid and important to a successful college or university.

Technology and Education
Technology is transforming the traditional methods of teaching and learning in the classrooms of the 21st Century. The goal is to create students who can become active, independent and lifelong learners rather than passive recipients of information. This new approach to education takes the student beyond the traditional textbook and requires students to develop a combination of skills in computer technology, critical thinking and information-seeking strategies. The classroom teacher is the key to the success of an education program that promotes these qualities. Society has long viewed librarians as the acknowledged information experts. As modern-day librarians we represent a professional group that long ago learned to bridge the gap between the traditional methods and the modern technological techniques used in the organization, management and retrieval of information.

Virtual library Environment
The concept of the virtual library is one that has developed with the growth in telecommunication networks, especially the Internet. The ‘virtual library’ emulates a ‘real’ library, but is understood to be a product of the virtual world of the Internet. A digital library possesses the same functions and goals of the traditional print-based library and that the difference lies in ‘the digital part of the term [which] indicates merely that the material is stored and accessed digitally’. Comprehensive definition of the digital library is provided by the Digital Library Federation (1999) in the United States:

Organisations that provide the resources, including the specialized staff, to select, structure, offer intellectual access to, interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of, and ensure the persistence over time of collections of digital works so that they are readily and economically available for use by a defined community or set of communities.
E-teaching and E-learning

Electronic learning (or E-Learning or eLearning) is a term for all types of technology-enhanced learning (TEL), where technology is used to support the learning process. Often the medium of instruction is through computer technology, particularly involving digital technologies. E-learning has been defined as “pedagogy empowered by digital technology”. In some instances, no face-to-face interaction takes place. E-learning is used interchangeably in a wide variety of contexts. In companies, it refers to the strategies that use the company network to deliver training courses to employees. In the United States, it is defined as a planned teaching/learning experience that uses a wide spectrum of technologies, mainly Internet or computer-based, to reach learners. Lately in most universities, e-learning is used to define a specific mode to attend a course or programmes of study where the students rarely, if ever, attend face-to-face for on-campus access to educational facilities, because they study online.

Goals and Benefits of e-learning

E-learning lessons are generally designed to guide students through information or to help students perform in specific tasks. Information based e-Learning content communicates information to the student. Examples include content that distributes the history or facts related to a service, company, or product. In information-based content, there is no specific skill to be learned. In performance-based content, the lessons build off of a procedural skill in which the student is expected to increase proficiency.

E-learning can provide four major benefits for the organizations and individuals involved.

i. Access to quality education: The fact that instructors of the highest calibre can share their knowledge across borders allows students to attend courses across physical, political, and social boundaries. Recognized experts have the opportunity of distributing information internationally at minimum costs.

ii. Affordable education: E-learning can drastically reduce the costs of higher education, making it much more affordable and accessible to the masses. An Internet connection, a computer, and a projector would allow an entire classroom in a Third World university to benefit from the knowledge of a distant instructor.

iii. Convenience and flexibility to learners: in many contexts, e-learning is self-paced and the learning sessions are available 24x7. Learners are not bound to a specific day/time to physically attend classes. They can also pause learning sessions at their convenience.

iv. Reducing environmental impact: e-learning allows people to avoid travel, thus reducing the overall carbon output. The fact that it takes place in a virtual environment also allows some reduction of paper usage. With virtual notes instead of paper notes and online assessments instead of paper assessments, eLearning is a more environmentally friendly solution.

Growth of e-learning

By 2006, nearly 3.5 million students were participating in on-line learning at institutions of higher education in the United States. Many institutes of higher education, for-profit institutions, now offer on-line classes. By contrast, only about half of private, non-profit schools offer them. The Sloan report, based on a poll of academic leaders, says that students generally appear to be at least as satisfied with their on-line classes as they are with traditional ones. Private institutions may become more involved with on-line presentations as the cost of instituting such a system decreases. Properly trained staff must also be hired to work with students on-line. These staff members need to understand the content area, and also be highly trained in the use of the computer and Internet. Online education is rapidly increasing, and online doctoral programs have even developed at leading research universities.

Academic Information Resources in the Age of Information

Information resources in all formats with adequate depth and quantity need to be provided in the library for students’ experimentation and exploration. Such resources should promote student-centered, resource-based, problem-solving and independent learning. Self-paced resources that enable the customization of learning and the impacting of specific skills to students should be promoted. This approach enables the student to direct his own learning while the teacher and the librarian work in partnership facilitate and guide the student along the learning process. It is a flexible system, as students do not have to read the same texts, or use the same resources in order to gain experiences and develop relevant skills. As they see the correlation between text, graphics and sound they are then able to sharpen their creativity skills. The information age university library is a laboratory of learning where abundant information resources in all formats and their accompanying infrastructure are available for exploration and skills development.

The Roles of the Librarian

Librarian is a professionally trained person responsible for the care of a library and its contents, including the selection, processing and organization of resources and the delivery of information, instruction and loan service to meet the needs of its users. In an online environment, the role of the librarian is to manage and mediate access to information that may exist only in electronic form.

Cybrarian a shortened form of Cyber librarian, coined
from the term ‘cyberspace’ and ‘librarian’ to refer to librarian whose work routinely involves information retrieval and dissemination via the Internet and the use of other online resources.

Melville Dewey wrote in an early edition of the *American Library Journal*:

> It is not enough that the books are cared for properly, are well arranged, are never lost... [The librarian] must put every facility in the way of the readers, so that they shall be led on from good to better. He must teach them how, after studying their own wants, they may themselves select their reading wisely.

Crawford and Gorman (1995) have defined the role of the librarian today:

> To acquire, give access to, and safeguard carriers of knowledge and information in all forms and to provide instruction and assistance in the use of the collections to which their users have access...

The enhanced role of librarians is pivotal to the success of the academic enterprise of the knowledge society and could contribute to academic acceleration in the following ways:

1. **The collection development role** – that provides the materials for research and scholarship and involves selection, acquisition, processing for access, and control.
2. **The information consultation role** – that guides the student or faculty member toward the best materials to meet their information needs.
3. **The instruction role** – that helps develop students (and faculty) into information fluent citizens capable of long-term continued self-education and effective and ethical use of information.
4. **The archival role** – of collecting, preserving and carefully sharing the historical records of an institution and the people who have worked there.
5. **The incredibly important and under-appreciated role** – of Special Collections in creating a unique intellectual focus and identity for an institution.
6. **The role of the library in providing** – not only spaces for group study or digital media creation and viewing, but for individual reflective work – for people who don’t care a whit for an “information commons” and do not need or want to work or study with others.

Some other roles are as:

- To provide intellectual access to information in any format
- To evaluate available sources of information
- To organise and structure information
- To ensure the preservation of information
- To provide specialized staff to offer instruction and assistance in interpreting resources and access to resources

The functions and contributions of human component in Digital Library environment may represent as below depending upon the job/activities they have to performed;
Services offered by the E-library
E-library services include the following:

- Online/offline access to digital information resources;
- Database searching;
- Public access services;
- Electronic reference;
- Public relations services;
- Library promotion and marketing;
- E-publishing;
- Information literacy programmes;
- Online circulation activities, such as electronic reserves;
- User Services and queries; and
- Online access to library catalogues, databases and the Internet.

The top issues facing by the academic libraries may be summarized as under:

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Importance of Libraries and Librarians in the current society
There are so many reasons behind the necessity of the library and librarian in the present digital library environment. Some of them are listed here:

A few of the above points may be discussed here

(2) The Internet isn’t free

Number of academic research papers, journals and other important materials are virtually inaccessible to someone seeking to pull them off the web for free. Rather, access is restricted to expensive subscription accounts, which are typically paid for by libraries. Visiting the library in person, or logging in to the library through your member account is therefore the only way to affordably access necessary archived resources.

(6) Digital Libraries are not the Internet

A fundamental understanding of what the Internet is—and what it isn’t—can help more clearly define what a library is, and why libraries are still extremely important. While one might use the Internet or a search engine to find these databases, deeper access to them requires registration. You are still online, but you are no longer on the Internet. You are in a library.
### Libraries and Librarians Improve Student Test Scores

By providing effective combined (Traditional as well as digital library environment) library services to its student users librarian can be act as an catalyst of achieving high score in both qualitative & quantitative in nature.

### Physical libraries are adapting to cultural change

The cultural change predates widespread use of the Internet, as well as Google Book Search. For decades society has been seeking a more holistic understanding of the world, and increased access to information. The search for new methods of organizing educational structures (including libraries) has long been active.

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<td>Library attendance isn't falling – it's just more virtual now</td>
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(13) Libraries and Librarians Improve Student Test Scores

(14) Physical libraries are adapting to cultural change
(16) Libraries’ collections employ a well-formulated system of citation

Books and journals found in libraries will have been published under rigorous guidelines of citation and accuracy and are thereby allowed into libraries’ collections. These standards are simply not imposed on websites.

(17) Libraries can preserve the book experience

Consuming 900 pages on the intellectual history of Russia is an experience unique to the book. In general, the book provides a focused, yet comprehensive study that summarizes years of research by an author—or team of authors—who have devoted their academic to a particular subject area.

(18) Libraries are stable while the web is transient

In an effort to improve their service and shake out the spammers, search engines are constantly updating their algorithms. Often, however, collateral damage will knock out innocent sites including, perhaps, authoritative resources.

(19) Libraries can be surprisingly helpful for news collections and archives

In many ways, libraries fall short of the Internet when it comes to aggregating news content. Online TV, radio and newspaper sources—not to mention an abundance of blogs referencing and commenting on daily events around the world—can often satiate anyone from the casual headline browser to the news junkie.

(20) Libraries are a stopgap to anti-intellectualism

Access to books and theories from hundreds of years of cultural history is essential to progress. Without this, technology could become the ironic tool of the sensational and retrograde cultural tendencies. Preserving libraries to store knowledge and teach the limitations of technology can help prevent the hubris and narcissism of technological novelty.

(21) Libraries aren’t just books

In fact, technology is revealing that the real work of librarians is not just placing books on bookshelves. Technology provides better access to information, but it is a more complex tool, often requiring specialized know-how.

Conclusion

Society is not ready to abandon the library, and it probably won’t ever be. Libraries can adapt to social and technological changes, but they can’t be replaced. While libraries are distinct from the Internet, librarians are the most suited professionals to guide scholars and citizens toward a better understanding of how to find valuable information online. Indeed, a lot of information is online. But a lot is still on paper. Instead of regarding libraries as obsolete, state and federal governments should increase funding for improved staffing and technology. The virtual library environment provides both an opportunity and a requirement for librarians to develop greater familiarity with IT-type skills. Today, more than ever, libraries and librarians are extremely important for the preservation and improvement of our culture. Para-professional staff required practical ‘hands on’ experience and training. Librarians are moving into database development, courseware, open learning and academic staff development and need a combination of knowledge, skills, aptitudes, and personal qualities in order to fill their multi-faceted roles. Finally, it may be state that human component is basically an indispensable part of the Library as ‘Librarian’ and Cybrary (in the electronic environment) as ‘Cybrarian’.

Bibliography