
Library response to COVID 19 and digital library services: The experiences of Rajarata University library

K. R. N. Harshani

Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

wimukasi@yahoo.com

University libraries' reaction to the COVID-19 epidemic might be a chance to re-state their parts in national disaster management. COVID-19 prescribed libraries and other organizations to close their access to users or adjust their procedures of facilities. This pandemic situation is a novel experience for library professionals to grow the number of digital services and resources. In addition, the libraries should spread out their determinations to encounter the increasing demands for information services. The primary purpose of this paper is to discuss the Rajarata University Library's response to the COVID-19 situation as best practices through their transformations to digital user services. The study attempts to describe how these digital library services maintain the patrons of Rajarata University Library in online teaching and the right to use information resources. Further, this study aims to make other university libraries conscious of what the library has applied to providing digital services to its user community during such a pandemic. This article is a conceptual paper based on the author's proficiencies and subjective estimation as a Library professional and observation of the library's responses regarding its digital services. The author focused on the insightful practice method to evaluate the library's practice throughout the pandemic, use e-services involvements in service given that and re-innovative the digital facilities for the future. It also defines the challenges and suggestions for the library professionals working remotely and in-house. These outcomes can offer a base to other academic libraries or institutions for responding to pandemic situations and carrying out more arguments. The conclusions present that libraries can go beyond their accountabilities and are responsible for psychological and emotional assistance to the community.

Keywords: *Library resources, Information technology, COVID-19 Pandemic, Academic library, Remote services*