

## THE ROLE OF ENGINEERING COLLEGE LIBRARIES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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**Abstract:** *The world has shuddered with the emergence of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The pandemic rejuvenated technology trends that continue to dominate daily activities in various organisations and libraries are not exempted. In this era, Covid-19 Pandemic has become a driving force that fast-tracks the technological adoption and its usage in academic libraries. The adoption and use of Information and Communication Technology for quality assured service delivery to library users in engineering college libraries relevant especially in the pandemic era. Engineering college libraries are loaded with the huge responsibility of providing unrestricted access to information and its resources at all times unfortunately due to the Covid19 such services tend to be restricted. This paper provides positive ways library services would be provided to the university community during this pandemic era.*

**Keywords:** *Engineering libraries, library services, ICT, Covid-19.*

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### Introduction :

The main objective of engineering college libraries irrespective if it is a library of conventional university or a library of an open and distance learning university is to provide necessary processed information to students, lecturers as well as researchers in aid of learning, teaching and research purposes. It is the duty of engineering college libraries to ensure that this objective is realized by providing educational and information needs of the university community. Functions of an academic library include acquisition of knowledge, organization of knowledge, preservation of knowledge for easy access and dissemination of knowledge. Academic Library is established to accomplish the objective of the university that owns it. Engineering college libraries have an important role to play such as informing lifelong learning and also providing unrestricted access to information for national development. To achieve this purpose the use of information and communication technology (ICT).

IFLA (2020) also recommended that with the emergence of the Covid-19, the library staff ought to stay safe just as the staff of other organizations in the world are keeping safe through abiding to the safety tips made available by the World Health Organization such as social distancing of individuals, wearing of proper face masks, constant washing of hands with soap and clean water, use of hand sanitizer, avoiding the touching of the face to mention but are few.

## **Services That Can Be Provided By Engineering College Libraries During Covid – 19 Pandemics:**

The safest ways of providing library services to the library users during the pandemic is through the online library services in other words, the engineering college libraries can make use of online library services to reach out to their library users.

Without doubt engineering college libraries are meant to provide information to their users with the aid of internet through their laptops and Android phones. Online information can be disseminated to the library users using social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, SMS and their email. The online library service is an option the engineering college libraries can proactively use to disseminate information to their library users especially in developing countries with lagging infrastructure.

## **Challenges Faced By Engineering College Libraries In The Covid-19 Pandemic Era:**

Like other organizations the Indian engineering college libraries face several challenges that prevent the effective provision of library services to their library users during this Coronavirus pandemic. Lack of funding is a major challenge faced by the engineering college libraries in India. Most universities in India benefit from the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) and as such the libraries benefit from the fund too through the allocation made for acquisition of books, shelves. Engineering college libraries in India are not flexible enough to provide active library services since there is absence of adequate infrastructure and adequate funding required in the university library. The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure is erratic. The internet network problems always arise due to low bandwidth.

Another challenge faced by the engineering college libraries is the issue of power supply which is epileptic. These skills include: Information and Communication Technology (ICT) that would enable and equip the academic librarians and library staff to navigate the vast internet to obtain information tailored to specific information needed by their library users. Human capacity building is another challenge faced by engineering college libraries in India,

## **Conclusion:**

This study concludes that academic librarians must be trained and retrained to provide effective services to their numerous library users in this pandemic era. The university with the assistance of the Federal or State government to make provision for standby solar power since the issue of power supply is not regular, with the solar power causes of power outage would reduce drastically and there will be increase in work out put. The engineering college libraries as a role must serve the library users with the aid of adequate information and Communication Technology (ICT) in creating access to information for their library users irrespective of the coronavirus or lockdown for their online tutorials, academic research, lifelong learning, and entertainment purposes.

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