New approaches and best practices for data repositories: Digital Reference Library Services@Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Sri Lanka

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In this Internet era, IT application in libraries has become an important part in developing countries in the past decade. The library and the librarian are playing a major role in today’s world by way of providing universal access to unlimited sea of information.

It is crystal clear that the advent of ICT has stimulated our libraries as well as librarians in a very positive manner. In this regard, applications of social media tools such as blogs, portals, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter etc. have made very effective, warm environment among libraries and its users. This paper is based on author’s experience at Digital Reference Library and how Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) library addresses the information needs of South Asian scholarly community.

As librarians it is our utmost duty to make an e-learning environment to enhance productivity of our scholarly community. Regular updates are made to e-repository collections and physical repository has been computerized using PURNA (CDS/ISIS) library software. Books, chapter of books, journal articles of the physical collection are systematically analyzed for easy reference.

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E-repositories and social media tools mainly blog and portal have become an integral part of the RCSS library which provide an effective access to open source information on strategic studies beyond RCSS walls. The main responsibility of any research or academic library is to collect information, systematically organize, preserve and make them accessible worldwide.

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