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On
Role of Continuing Education Programmes (CEP)
for the Professional Development of
College Librarians in Information Age

5th October 2015

Organized by



Department of Library

MAHATMA JYOTIBA FULE MAHAVIDYALAYA,
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Continuing Education Programme for Library Professionals in India

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Continuous education is not only a systematic and continuous schooling, but also a process of development and human consciousness in all its aspects. It is very correctly said by a scholar that the academic libraries would be helping continuing education by helping people to give a deeper meaning to their lives.

Needs of Continuing Education for LIS professionals

Every profession in the modern era has to adapt itself to the rapidly growing knowledge society. Each and every profession must keep in mind and be aware of the constant change and innovations that are taking place in our modern society.

Senior professionals, particularly the librarians and information scientists of the university libraries should always be eager to improve their knowledge in their subject area and also update themselves with the latest management skills. Other professionals at the junior level must be aware of the changing information and communication technology needs and demands of the users. They must avail themselves of the opportunity of joining various short/long courses/training programmes, which automatically helps them to improve the quality and sustainability of their services.

CPE for Library Professionals in Indian context :

In India, several Information Centres and academic bodies are doing commendable work in the field of continuing professional education. These institutions include the National Social Science Documentation Centre (NASDOC), All India Institute

of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Indian Institute of Technology (IITs), Indian Institute of Management (IIMs) and so on. The three well established library associations (Indian Library Association (ILA), Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres (IASLIC) and Medical Library Association of India (MALAI)) regularly conduct several short time courses in the field of library classification, library cataloguing, indexing, computer applications, digital library, multimedia, information and knowledge-management, collection management, content management, preservation and conservation and industrial information system and management.

The Indian Library Association (ILA), one of the leading library associations of India, is conducting continuing education programme and at present offering twenty such courses.

In the special library field, the Indian Association of Special Libraries Information Centres (IASLIC) is also offering different types of short-range courses, workshops, and annual conferences in different areas of library & information science. Workshops on professional development for LIS professionals during last five years (2000-05) included the following themes:

- Workshop on 'WINISIS'-2000
- Workshop on the 'use of audio-visual materials for Library & Information services and their promotion' - 2001
- A course on 'Web design and basic internet concept'- 2003
- Workshop on 'Conservation of library materials'.

In addition to these national bodies, various state library associations of India are also offering different types of programmes on continuing education, particularly in the field of automation and information technology. Continuing education has become essential for each and every type of library professionals. It includes both formal and informal learning situations. Advanced training for continuing education in highly automated libraries should cover the following areas:

- Library software packages;
- AACR II;
- Library of Congress Subject Headings or the use of any standard in terminological thesaurus;MARC/ UNIMARC formats;
- Online databases;
- E-mail/Internet;
- CAS/SDI using new technology;
- Knowledge Management/Content Management in Digital Environment;
- Electronic Publishing;
- Multimedia;
- Open Source Software;
- Digital Information Management etc.

We understand that continuing education is nothing but a set of intellectual activities developed by human beings to modernize and improve themselves during their life. It follows the philosophy of 'lifelong education'. Specific courses should be followed in any programme of professional development which should have a "balanced content, neither over emphasizing the professional's world nor his political performance, but giving priority to the essential basic knowledge that is fundamental to making him a more efficient technician in his field"

Conclusion

It is found that the country has a population of more than a billion but only around four million are Internet users. Therefore according to one scholar, a low percentage of Internet access is creating problems for Continuing Education programme. Despite inadequate grants in a few libraries they are not hesitating to start with Continuing Education Programmes.

Librarians and all library professionals should attend professional meetings in different parts of the city and country, which is one of the most popular modes of continuing education for librarians. Continuing Education programmes for library professionals should be a joint and shared responsibility of the individual, the employer, the library schools and the library associations

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