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Contemporary Innovation in Library Science

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## Status of Green Library Movement in India: Challenges and Role of Librarians

Gajanan Baliram Ghayal

M.Lib. & I.Sc., M.Phil.

Librarian,

Smt. Sindhutai Jadhao Arts and Science College  
Mehkar

### Abstract :

*The concept of green library gaining popularity in the field of library science. The green library facilitate to decrease electricity consumption and promote use of renewable sources like wind, solar energy etc. In today's time, it is necessary for a library to provide healthy library environment to users as well as to reduce the cost on library energy consumption. The concept of green library is accepted globally. In fact, certain Indian libraries are on the way to create green libraries. However, challenges such as lack of funding, lack of attitude and lack of awareness about green library among policy makers, managements and authorities of libraries in India. Thus, efforts should be taken to make people aware about this concept. Librarians should perform a key role in this movement by making people aware about the concept, by explaining its benefit to users, institutions, society and country.*

**Key Words:** Green Library, challenges, librarian

### Introduction:

The advent and advancement of modern technology leading to speedy development of human lifestyle. The process of communication become faster, it needs fraction of second to complete the demands, without compromising quality. The demands are becoming unending due to the inquisitiveness and technical novelties. On the contrary, this development have worse impact on environment, health and psychology of people. Hence, there is lack of something important which should be acknowledged before sustainable development and unlimited productive development can only be possible to make our environment a sustainable one. Over the past few years, the interest towards green revolution is increasing in all sectors including library. Libraries are gateways of knowledge and responsible for disseminating ideas of sustainable development. As a social accountable body, the publicity of idea of ecological sustainability is also the responsibility of library. Hence, there is need to make libraries economically friendly and sustainable, which is evolved as a concept, known as 'green library'.

### Green Library:

The concept of green library gaining popularity in the field of library science. The green library movement was emerged during early 1990s. The aim of this concept is manifold. Green or sustainable libraries are the structure that is designed, built, renovated, operated, or reused in an ecological and resource efficient manner. Online Dictionary of Library and Information Science (ODLIS) define green library "green/sustainable libraries as a library designed to minimize negative impact on the natural environment and maximize indoor environmental quality by means of careful site selection, use of natural construction materials and biodegradable products, conservation of resources like water, energy, paper, and responsible waste disposal recycling, etc."





### Features of Green Library:

The green library should essentially present following features-

1. The location of library should be so that it will be under reach of users and should be situated at calm and non-polluted place. The place should have natural or cultivated green habitat.
2. The material used in library building should mostly be recycled material, which include flooring, service desks, acoustical ceiling and bathroom tiles, and window frames. The material used should also be native or regional material such as the concrete and stone paving. Wood from native trees that would be removed during construction is being re-purposed to create some Library furnishings.
3. The roof of building and paving around it should be made with light-colored materials that reflect the sun, mitigating the "heat island effect" — an urban phenomenon in which the temperature is up to 10 degrees higher than in areas surrounded by vegetation. Avoiding heat islands creates less demand for energy, lowers air-conditioning costs, and cuts air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
4. To lower water drought-tolerant landscaping should be planted around the building, including palms, bougainvillea, deodar, Indian hawthorn, long grass etc. The use of low-flow toilets and taps, and waterless urinals, will decrease the use of water up to 40 percent. Wastewater around the area should be recycled for further use in gardening and irrigation.
5. The use of advanced lighting controls should save approximately 30 percent more energy than light fixtures. The system should be installed to make maximum use of day light. The use of solar cell should also be beneficial over regular electricity supply.

### Need of Green Libraries

There are some explanations to build green libraries or add in green features into library buildings. Firstly, the cost of creating green buildings are affordable. It is possible to build green library structures on conventional fund. Secondly, most readily available energy resources are fixed resources. It is good for the health of the planet and library's budget that these energy sources should be used sensibly. The conventional energy resources will be use with natural energy resources such as day light, wind and solar energy in green library concept, which minimize use of conventional energy consumption and reduces energy consumption cost. Thirdly, it is important to reduce the carbon footprint of buildings. The term carbon footprint is defined as "the amount of greenhouse gases and specifically carbon dioxide emitted by something (such as a person's activities or a product's manufacture and transport) during a given period, usually expressed in equivalent tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)" (Merriam-Webster). The low carbon footprint can be achieved by using green library buildings.

### Role of librarian in Green Library movement

Librarian is an important medium for managing and running libraries. Hence, he/she should play important role in employing novel ideas for betterment of library. Librarians should act as an essence for sustainability by providing appropriate and pertinent facts associated with green issues and concerns. The features of green library such as use of reusable, recyclable, reducible, reprocessible, recoverable, renewable, biodegradable, durable, supportable, imperishable, durable materials & resources. Librarians should educate the community about





responsible environmental practices by providing related information. Green library management highlights a new attitude of taking accountability for the constancy of nature, health of library users and staff and supplying for the needs and awareness of upcoming generations of users. The concepts like environment literacy, nature preservation and energy conservation should be taken in to consideration by librarians. This reflects that library cares about its long-standing influence on the community and motivates others to execute environment-friendly efforts. They should also identify and acknowledge the major green library initiatives at the global and regional level to understand the process of making green library. They should convince the management, policymakers and authorities for building green libraries for sustainable development (Datta, 2015).

### **Green Library Movement in India:**

India is severely facing problems such as environmental pollution, decreasing energy and water resources, illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, terrorism etc. However, new government very much concern about these issues and importance is given on issues like hygiene and environmental awareness. Indian libraries started to use natural energy resources such as day light and solar cell generated electricity as much as possible, energy saving LED bulbs, use of natural air, providing importance to cleanliness, hygienic toilets, adequate provision of waste bins at appropriate places, proper disposal policies for weeded library materials and equipment etc. In India the Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) is leading the Green Library movement. It created first United States Green Building Council (USGBC) rated Green Building in India namely CII-Godrej Green Business Centre in 2001. TERI is planning to develop an indigenous tool for rating of green buildings in India. The Government of India has GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) as the National rating system. COSTFORD (Centre of Science and Technology for Rural Development) a non-profit organization established in 1985 focuses on development of housing in Kerala and made noteworthy improvements in providing substitute viewpoint and technologies in order to take key responsibility for Green Library Movement in India. The green building revolution in India is also supported by IGBC (Indian Green Building Council). It offers a wide array of services, which include developing new green building rating programmes, certification services and green building training programmes. In a way, it has been instrumental in mobilizing the green building movement in India.

### **Challenges to Green Library Movement in India:**

Although, there is very much awareness regarding sustainable ecology and go green movement. In Indian scenario, there is need to bring up awareness among people about green library. In addition to this, the cost of constructing green library building is much more than the annual budget of libraries in India hence, libraries facing issues in meeting green goals.

Furthermore, libraries as a part of academic institution or community organization cannot able to attract the attention of policy makers. Hence, mostly it is neglected part of institute organization or colleges. Only librarian and related staff takes care and manage libraries. Mostly they have no role to play in budgetary decisions about library except book purchase. Hence, mostly librarians are found themselves helpless in taking any action towards sustainable library development.



**Coordinator - IQAC**  
**Smt. Sindhutai Jadhao Co**  
**Mehkar, Dist. Buldana**