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**OUT OF THE FRONTIERS: LINKING PEOPLE WITH THE FINEST INFORMATION
SYSTEMS @ LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTRE, INSTITUTE OF LAW, NIRMA
UNIVERSITY, GUJARAT**

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Abstract:

Legal profession is a fast-emerging profession. In the era of globalization and liberalization, it is probably to get further momentum as more lawyers would be required to handle cases arising out of international trade and as a result of growing importance of WTO. “A good Library is not just a space for books; it is also a space for people. In particular, it is a space for people to focus on a specific task” written on the Blog of one very well known company called Mark Gould Consulting . We need to attend more closely to such “social infrastructures,” the “facilities and conditions that allow connection between people,” says sociologist Eric Klinenberg. This article focuses on how Law Librarianship is the gateway to a wide variety of interesting, exciting, and challenging professional opportunities. This Article shows the Ways & Practical Approach to how can be User community served highest with the available Resources & manpower.

Keywords: Information Resources, Best Practices, Institute of Law, Nirma University

1. Introduction:

An academic Law Library is quite different by its content, management, organization, users' needs. The Library is the Research Laboratory where students learn core skills of the legal profession within the law school. Highly skilled and experienced Law Library professionals are actively and highly involved in varied information needs. With widespread availability of automated information resources, the boundaries are dissolved between legal and non-legal information as appropriate authority for judicial as well as legislative decision making. Now-a – days, the advent of online legal research outlets such as SCC Online, AIR InfoTech, Manupatra, IndLaw, FindLaw, Westlaw, LexisNexis, and Heinonline has reduced the need for

some types of printed volumes like reporters and statutory compilations.

As bibliographic educators, Law Librarians' challenge is to go beyond merely training students to aim at high level of legal information. So LRC, IL, NU continually focus on giving the best to the User community by providing various Library Services. The Law Library also brings to the law school a series of important intangibles that enables the school to create and develop its identity within the greater legal academy and the outside world also.

2. Institute of Law, NIRMA University

NIRMA University is one of the Renowned Academic University of India established by the founder of Nirma Industries and an internationally famous entrepreneur Dr. Karshanbhai Patel. With a vision to promote excellence in the field of legal education and to fulfill the ever increasing demand of quality legal professionals for a growing legal world, Institute of Law was set up under the aegis of Nirma University in the year 2007. In a short span of time Institute of Law, Nirma University (ILNU) reached to high place in the legal education map of the country. At present ILNU offers B.A.,LL.B.(Hons.), B.Com.,LL.B.(Hons.) – five year integrated programmes, one year LL.M. programme in different areas and Doctoral Programme leading to Ph.D.

3. Library Resource Centre, Institute of Law, NIRMA University

Library has established in 2007 with the inception of the Institute & occupies the Place of pride in the Institute. The Library is committed to act globally by builds cooperative network within and outside the campus. It invests in Human Resources, Collections & Physical & Virtual Library. Empowering Research & Learning community in IL, NU with deep expertise LRC is continuously engaged in Innovative Services and outstanding collection development strengthened by strategic management. The Library is highly sophisticated with state-of-art Infrastructure & Technology.

Library has adopted World Class Technology to provide high quality User focused services by using OSS KOHA, DSpace, Google Apps & RemoteXs. Keeping in view the aims and objectives of the Law School, the Library has been planned and is being developed by a team of qualified professional Library staff and guided by the Library Council. The LRC, IL, NU is fully automated with user friendly Library software KOHA Open Source Software to facilitate readers to have easy access to the Library resources. To assist the users in locating literature as well as information in their areas of research, general reference, current awareness and computerized catalogue by using KOHA Open Source Software have been introduced. An orientation programme for new students is also organized to help them acquaint themselves with the Library system and services for maximum utilization of the available resources.

4. Literature Review:

(1) Atul Bhatt has explained the trends of information needs, the information seeking behavior and users perceptions for library resources of legal professionals. He also further discussed the points which should be taken care while providing core, qualitative and need based Library

services for the optimum utilization of the resources for the higher satisfaction of the user community.(2) Kauffman has analyzed in his study that : Teenagers who rely to Wikipedia and Google for finding answers for their research papers may even make it possible to get admitted to the Harvard, Duke, Stanford and Yale Law Schools and they firmly believe that they can just find it all by going on to Google. They may come into the Library to use as a Study Hall – they think they know how to research because it seems easy for them. So here Role of the Librarian is Critical – We have to think and prepare strategically so we can guide them and make them understand that in reality doing legal research is more complicated today than it's ever been before. Danner (2) has answered of many queries e.g purposes of libraries, and about why we need law libraries in this new digital world. Why should we care about books and libraries when so much of the information that lawyers, law students, and legal scholars use and need is online, accessible anytime, anywhere, and in many instances to anyone.(3) Gardner at Jack of Kent blog. The importance of Law Libraries – and the continued threat to Inner Temple Library. 1 October, 2015 has analysed the importance of Library and Law Librarian and truly said: “for lawyers, “education and training” is not somehow distinct from a well-resourced law library. It is where a great deal of meaningful legal education and training takes place, with the lawyer or law student doing it for themselves, or with the assistance of experienced and trained law librarians.”(4) Mark Gould Consulting Blog mentioned that in today's digital Era, Some modern lawyers have forgotten the significance of libraries in their legal practice. They focus to the ready availability of online and portable electronic resources as a better alternative to print resources. The library has historically and carries central position in the life of the law. In the past years, large law firms and barristers' chambers would often present their library holdings as a mark of their knowledge and power of the subject. National and local law societies established Libraries as a priority for their members.(5) Khwaja Abdul Muntaqim gives the information about Career in Law. How much important this career in today's word and so the importance of Library also.(6) Johrul Islam has discussed the Role of Libraries and Librarian is very much important in this information era. He has given the example of the Best Practices in the Library e.g. Library user education, library best user award, library book exhibition, Internet service in the Library, collection development in the Library, Book Bank Facility and Information about Competitive Exams.(10) S.D. Vyas has explained NAAC's concern for quality of library practices as well as NACC's set of best practices in academic libraries. While evaluating the criteria of selection of the best academic Libraries., he understands that some features should have been included for improving the services of the college Libraries.

5. Objectives of the Study:

- ❖ Main Objective of this study is sharing Experiences & Best Practices at LRC, IL, NU - how they offer Services to Users to make the Library truly **Happening Place** of the Institute. By improving its processes and activities, optimizing resource utilization, trained manpower, and delivering high quality, value added services to its users, purpose of the Best Practices can be fulfilled.
- ❖ Discussing the important factors e.g. adoption of well defined, transparent, user-focused, and technology-oriented processes and practices with a flexibility to change and improve can lead the LIC to be the best.

6. Best Practices in Library Services & Activities @ LRC, IL, NU

Definition of Best Practices:

ODLIS (Online Dictionary of Library and Information Science) describes best practices as follows: “In the application of theory to real-life situations, procedures that, when properly, applied consistently yield superior results and are therefore used as reference points in evaluation of the effectiveness of alternative methods of accomplishing the same task. Best practices are identified by examining empirical evidence of success.

Australian Best Practice Demonstration Program defines best practice as, “the pursuit of world class performance. It is the way in which the most successful organizations manage and organize their operations. It is a moving target. Best practices can also be defined as the most efficient (least amount of effort) and effective (best results) way of accomplishing a task, based on repeatable procedures that have proved themselves over time for large number of people.” Best Practices benchmarking can be summarized as the: ♦ development of an understanding of the fundamentals that lead to success, ♦ focus on continuous improvement efforts, and ♦ management of the overall change process to close the gap between an existing practice of the institution and that of the best-in-class institutions with reference to the most relevant key performance variables.

Following are the Best Practices applied for the Fruitful Library Services & Best Optimal of the Library & Human Resources:

6.1 Remote Login for Researchers:

RemoteXs has an ability to provide secured access to scattered E-Resources of the institution, bringing them under one umbrella, along with subscribed eJournals, eBooks and all other eContent, that too anytime ...from anywhere.....

Library is providing Remote-Login facility to the users of Institute of Law, Nirma University, All final year UG students, PG students, PH.D. Students and faculty members can using Remote-Login facility for accessing online and digital resources outside the campus also.

6.2 Library Website:

All the details regarding the Library e.g. Various Resources, OPAC, Upcoming Events, Services, Institutional Repository etc. are in details described here, so without the physical presence in the Library one can get all the necessary information of the Library from anywhere...anytime.....

6.3 Institutional Repository:

NU Libraries have good collection of digitized resources like Newspaper Clippings, Periodical's Content Pages, Previous Years' Exam-Papers, Periodical Archive, Institutes Publications, Photo-albums, Ph.D. Theses and Dissertation. These Intellectual Property is managed by DSpace.

Following resources are accessible within campus -

- Institutes Publications
- Photo-albums,
- Ph.D. Theses
- Dissertation

Following resources are accessible within campus and also off-campus through Google-apps -

- Newspaper Clippings

6.4 Previous Years' Exam-Papers:

In our Institutional Repository using DSpace Software, we 've gathered Institutional Intellectual Outputs like, faculty papers (in process), theses and dissertations in PDF format at DSpace. Student can access this digital information anywhere in the campus through our Library server.

Examination papers Depository is a humble effort to facilitate 24 X 7 access to the users. Here, users can find soft copies of examination question papers of B.A., LL.B., B.Com., LL.B. and LL.M. of all semesters of Institute of Law from the year 2007 till date.

6.5 Periodical's Content Pages (Offered by Institute of Technology)

Institute of Technology, NU Library provides the access of content pages of print periodicals i.e. subscribed by Institutes of Technology

Library. Library has made an archive of print periodical's content pages of Institute of Technology by using Google Application. User can search / access content pages all print periodicals in this archive by name of periodical, keyword, etc.

Best Practices in the Library Publications :

To Focus on Users' Needs & Satisfaction, Library has started some new publications to make the Users aware from the Latest Information and News from the Law field.

6.6 Samiksha: One Stop Global Legal Digest

“SAMIKSHA” is a new initiative to bring to the budding legal eagles a collection of legal happenings from all around the world. It's a bid to bring the computer and phone an easy access to the news of whatever that is happening in this noble profession, globally.

This is an easily accessible and informative platform to enhance legal knowledge and solve the legal dilemmas. “SAMIKSHA” is issued weekly with the latest happenings of the legal field on your fingertips.

6.7 Through the Looking Glass:

To Help & Motivate Users to involve in Collection Development, this Service is started for. It provides latest Update with Favorite Subject's Books across the Globe in various Subjects. Here LRC Plan Users' Meet with their Next Favorite Book....

Users are informed surprisingly herewithfrom Insightful New Book Releases. This may help them to explore New Zone, gather Information, and expand their Mind from the latest trends in Law field. If they don't see their Favorite Subject Books in the List.... they may request LRC in the comments & then sincerely Try is given to Update and Add their Favorite Titles by Next Book Lists...!

This Service is provided Twice in a Month. This Service helps the Users in Book Recommendation and this way Library Collection Can be more Strengthen and Developed.

6.8 What's Happening@ILNU Library:

As most of Users at LRC, feel & say that they spend countless hours in the Library and appreciate an environment that places study in a social context. They say that rather than distracting from one's work, opportunities to meet and socialize make the experience of spending long hours in the Library more pleasant and rewarding. LRC has grabbed this opportunity & started this new service as *Meeting and Socializing with Study-Academics & beyond*. This helps Users to Tune up with Latest advancement in Academics & beyond.

❖ **Book Review by the Author/Teacher /Students:**

Best Seller, Interesting, Well Reviewed written by prominent People etc. are reviewed here among the Users by Student, Faculty and even sometimes by the Author of the book.

❖ **“Talk-SHOW” - Adialogue-based discussion sessions:**

Informal Session with Expert & Coffee...!

Recent Trends in Law field are discussed by the Expert in very informal session with dialogue exchange.....

❖ **Books Displays on specific Topic:** Interesting & Useful Topics are Selected and Display....

6.9 Competitive Exam Corner: services:

Especially in India the amount of competitiveness has rapidly and is increasing every single

second. LRC strive to Encourage & Provide Excellent Collection to Users with Peaceful Environment; this corner is exist to serve this purpose.

6.10 Faculty Awareness about Library Resource Centre

6.11 Facebook for Library: Like

By posting updates on Facebook, LRC inform the Users about the Library's programmes, activities and services. We can invite students to attend training sessions, post practical information about the Library's opening times, link to new and existing print and online resources, and update the university community about any new developments. 'Followers' are engaged with the Library by commenting on posts and sharing them with their friends. It's our personal experience that Social Media helps in Marketing the Library & it's Service with great extent & spread Awareness among the User community.

6.12 The CD Library II

is a CD-ROM storage system which can hold 150 CDs. The CD Library II can store all kinds of CD in 12cm size, such as CDs, DVDs, game CDs, or Music CDs. The unit can connect to the personal computer via USB cable. Users may find the CDs by CD titles, CD contents, category, remark, and etc. If it will not use with computer operation, the stand alone is an option as well too.

7. Conclusion :

In the process of achieving best practices in libraries, Prof. A.C. Tikekar warns us “Blind imitation, false competition and status symbolism do not work well. At the same time both resistance and or reluctance to accept the inevitable changes will be harmful to development of libraries.” It is suggested to UGC /NAAC that the best practices followed in British Libraries and American Center Libraries operating in India should have been taken into account. There are areas which we have not been able to find out as best practices. Librarian should have willingness to go beyond the boundaries and make the Best Use of Resources and Manpower to provide high scale information services.

By applying latest Technologies & Innovative Services, Library can become the Heart of the Institute & for the Users Community; & would be become the Most Happening Place in the Institute.....!

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