

Library- A Fluid Medium at TMALDEN

“The concept of library is as old as humanity itself. The role of a librarian has changed through the ages from a curator of information to a mediator between the user and information,” said Dr.I.R.N. Goudar, Library Advisor, Bangalore University in the two-day conference held by Jain University on the Trends in Management of Academic Libraries in Digital Environment (TMALDEN). He elaborated that libraries have now evolved from a repository of print material to nearly a repository of 100 types of mediums. This has urged many to become aware of the need to digitalize library systems he added. Dr.Goudar along with academics in the field of library science were invited as a guest speakers at the conference which addressed many important issues in the field of library science.

The conference put forth many issues in the field of library science. The fact that libraries need to adapt to the digital age. The participants touched on many topics like Electronic Resource Management, skills necessary for a librarian, and the need to create a digital repository in academic libraries. It revealed a very fascinating set of data contrary to belief; libraries are very much thriving among students and academics. Nearly 88% participants in a survey among students and academics revealed that they preferred print books to online books.

“If libraries can use social media in their favor, they most certainly can generate renewed interest and passion among users. It has become a powerful tool in spreading awareness on the wonders of reading. I believe that libraries must expand their resources to enter the digital age,” said Prof. T D Kemaparaju, Professor and Director, Directorate of Distance Education, Bangalore University.

“There is a distinct change in the attitude of the users. The libraries need to have good grasp of technology with the ability to fulfill user requirements. There is a very good advantage in the process of creating electronic content, the process of preservation of priceless texts becomes easier and more secure”, he elaborated.

The participants of the conference had a rousing discussion on the various facets of library administration, and shared views on the various paper presentation. Ms. Madhavi R, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce and Management, Jain University said, “It is only at a conference like this that we can discuss the necessary actions required for the improvement of libraries at educational institutions in India. I believe that the entire education section is entering the new age, and we as librarians must aid this transition.”

The conference ended with a variety of ideas shared among the participants. It gave a new perspectives and ideas for the gathering to take home.