SWOT Analysis of Role and Responsibilities of Library as Learning Resource Center in Health Science Education Institute

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Abstract

In today's information age, the library as a Learning Resources Center (LRC) has become a vital component in health science education and research institutes. The Library/ Learning Resources Center plays a leading role in fulfilling the very important primary responsibility of meeting the information needs of its users. In addition, for that he is constantly striving to achieve the purpose of his educational institution. For this, its primary responsibility is to meet the changing needs of its users with the currently available resources of its Learning Resources Center (LRC). The role played by the Learning Resources Center (LRC) in meeting the information needs of its users for Learning Resources Center (LRC) service in today's present day is not limited to its collection of information and its retrieval. However, apart from that, the Learning Resources Center (LRC) has many needs to provide various information sources like print and non-print sources to its users. The Learning Resources Center (LRC) is a combination of LRC and online resources. This paper focuses more on the existence of the Learning Resources Center (LRC) in today's development of health science education and the new role of the library as a learning resource centre in health education as a resource centre. The strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the learning resource center's internal environment and external environment and its various factors are discussed here.

Keywords : Medical College, Learning Resource Centre, opportunity, Planning, Librarian, Library, Strengths, Threats, SWOT analysis, Weaknesses.

Introduction

Learning Resources Center (LRC) is very important in health science education and research institutions today. Therefore, a new role of the library as a learning resource center has emerged in health science teaching institutions. Learning Resources Center (LRC) practices are changing due to changes in information technology, teaching and its learning methods in health sciences. Due to this new situation, due to the new demands of the Learning Resources Center (LRC) users, it is time for the Learning Resources Center (LRC) to play a new role as a resource centre by adopting new methods and its use for maintaining and distributing library services.

Learning Resources Center (LRC) for health and related information and health science academic institutions are very important to function successfully in today's knowledge-based society. Learning Resources Center (LRC) is an integral part of the organization of health sciences. Therefore, Create and maintaining a library is very important to help and support the achievement of the educational objectives of the institution.

Efforts have become imperative to establish the Learning Resources Center (LRC) as a hub of information resources to assist the educational activities of the educational institution in the field of health sciences and to increase the use of the library to enable its users to access information quickly from the collection of various information sources of the Learning Resources Center (LRC). Establishing the library as a resource canter by planning and implementing materials to meet the demands of the students and teachers of the institution and making efforts to make the required information easily available to the users of the Learning Resources Center (LRC) has become imperative nowadays.

The Library as Learning Resources Center

In the mid-1960s and 1970s, learning resource centers established in various academic and other libraries. The use of computers started in this learning resource center. Since then in the Learning Resource Center has added a new dimension to information technology and teaching and learning principles. A Learning Resource Center is a library facility, staffed by specialist librarian and other supporting staff. The Learning Resource Center contains a number of information resources for the students and staff of the institute to facilitate their learning and research. Which is used with multimedia resources and information technology. (Learning resource center) Collins English Dictionary defines "Learning Resources Center". According to it, a learning resource center is a library, usually located in an educational institution. This

includes books, periodicals and other such literature, as well as audiovisual aids and other special materials for learning and motivating their users. (English Dictionary)

Mission and Goals of the Learning Resource Center

The basic mission of the Learning Resources Center (LRC) is to facilitate, enhance and fulfil their learning and research interests by providing Learning Resources Center (LRC) services with essential resources and services, use of innovative technology, instruction and adequate facilities and library (LRC) staff.

To accomplish this mission, the Learning Resource Centers provide.

1. The Learning Resource Center aims to provide an organized, developed and relevant collection of its primary and secondary materials.
2. The Learning Resource Center aims to provide its users with organized and accessible materials of audiovisual collections and online databases.
3. To encourage their users to make maximum use of the Learning Resource Center is to provide its well-equipped facilities quickly.
4. Users of the Learning Resource Center are assisted by highly competent and professional staff to assist them and fulfil their responsibilities to meet their information needs.
5. The acquisition, organization and distribution of Learning Resource Center resources are to be accomplished through adequate hours of operation to ensure accessibility to their users.
6. To provide maximum utilization of all the services and resources of the Education Resource Center to meet their information needs and provide professional instruction to manage their resources and services on campus in coordination with their faculty, staff and students.
7. The main purpose of the Learning Resource Center is to promote the self-study of its users.

Planning of Learning Resource Center

The Learning Resources Center is an organized set of health science subject's resources, including library services and its collections. Considering the physical components of the Learning Resources Center (LRC) like space, equipment and its collections, there are several things to keep in mind for setting up a resource canter. A detailed outline of resource centre

plans and structures and timetables should also be useful for implementing the quality improvement process of such libraries. (Boelke). This is as follows.

1. Planning for the physical needs of the Learning Resources Center and determining its structure.
2. Determining collection policies regarding what content will be included.
3. Organized periodic organizational plans to be maximize utilization of Learning Resources Center collections.
4. Prepare a blueprint for advance planning of Learning Resources Center services.

The Role of the Librarian in the Learning Resource Center (LRS)

Apart from the educational resources traditionally used in the library such as books, reference books, journals, these Learning Resource Canters now also contribute to the dissemination of information resources using new modern technologies such as learning software, audio/visual media, electronic journals, databases and educational websites. Due to such changes in the health sciences Learning Resources Center (LRC), the role of the traditional librarian has now changed to that of the library manager in the learning resource centre.

In the new role of medical librarian, the important responsibility has arisen to meet the needs of the users by organizing the information collected in the Learning Resources Center (LRC) on medicine and related subjects in such a way that it is readily available to its users.

- New role of librarian to actively manage situation with various human and physical factors like time, location, force, study environment, colleagues and library users while formulating Learning Resources Center (LRC) resource management strategy.
- Role of making Learning Resources Center (LRC) resources quickly available to Learning Resources Center (LRC) users by organizing its automated information retrieval and assisted instruction.
- Role of making library resources quickly available to library users by organizing automated information retrieval and assisted instruction.

Wheelberger (1973), states about the Learning Resources Centre (LRC) concept that it is a type of library services. In which the library provides service to its users regarding the Total Media program with an administrative responsibility of its own. They have mentioned the following benefits of Learning Resources Center (LRC). (Wheelbarger)

- The budget of the Learning Resources Center, its staff and the facilities available to its users can be met.

- It is possible to obtain solutions to problems due to the easy learning of perfect coordination of all elements.
- The traditional activities of the library can give way to new meaningful activities.
- Such new services can be directed to their users as the traditional burden of Learning Resources Center (LRC) collection and preservation is reduced.
- Users are more comfortable with this type of information service center.

Advantage of the Learning Resources Center

- Peterson (1973) states that a learning resource centre is a depository of resources. It emphasizes education. Here it is stored as a depository for a wide range of resources. Moreover, it is incredibly easy to use.
- A Learning Resource Center (LRC) makes an important contribution to facilitating and enhancing health education through the organization's resources and services, access to innovative technology, instruction in its use and adequate facilities, and activities performed by its staff.
- The Learning Resource Center (LRC) contributes significantly to the increased use of books, journals, software and audio/visual materials, and other electronic information resources by promoting them.
- The Learning Resource Center (LRC) provides an important contribution to its users in fulfilling their academic, study interests and promoting their research activity.
- The Learning Resource Center (LRAC) makes an important contribution to promoting systematic use of primary and secondary materials, encouraging their users to increase their use of audiovisual materials and access to relevant collections such as online databases.

Learning Resource Center Services

Learning Resources Center (LRC) provides physical material information and digital information services quickly to its users. In which the Learning Resources Center (LRC) holds the administrative responsibility and provides information through various digital media through traditional means of Learning Resources Center (LRC) and through digital services. Health information services through the Learning Resource Center are essential to enhance the information literacy of their users by providing them with quality information from various health information and resources for their health information needs.

The Learning Resources Center offers various library services in the following target areas.

Evidence-based library services

Evidence-based Learning Resources Center (LRC) services have become very important in health science education at present time. Medical librarians continually attempt to provide their users with all the resources they require for practicing evidence-based medicine in a clinical environment. Evidence-based library services help medical students, educators, and researchers in their daily activities and decision-making in the health care they need. Support their teaching, research. This includes helping users clarify their clinical questions, developing their clinical skills, and saving time by providing them with multiple complex interfaces to clinical work. Therefore, it is very important for medical librarians to always use this service to identify the best evidence to support clinical decision-making for their users. The service provides support for incorporating the principles of evidence-based library and information practice (EBLIP) into the various day-to-day functions of the library through various library resources.

Anticipatory information services

In this service information centers provide advance information services to their users with accurate information on the current development of their subject. Services provided to meet the expectations of medical students; teachers and researchers to obtain necessary information are also known as proactive services or proactive services. This service also contributes significantly to support the research activities of the library in view of the needs of providing such a specialized service on the curriculum, teaching and learning of various courses of health education. This service increases the speed of sending information and receiving feedback and saves users time. (Ranjan)

In this service information centers provide advance information services to their users with accurate information on the current development of their subject. Such services are mainly provided through the Web-based or Internet-based services. Apart from this the following services are mainly provided by the Learning Resource Centre.

- Current Awareness Type (CAT)

- Condensation Type

- Readers Advisory Service

- Information Literacy

Molecular Biology Information Service (MolBio Information Service)

Molecular Biology Information Service is an innovative Health Science library/LRC based bioinformatics support service for students, teachers and researchers in the biomedical field. This service provides bioinformatics training to library users for their teaching and research. In which training is given on bioinformatics software, computational, use of statistical methods in their research and retrieving required material from various databases.

Bioinformatics support services usually provide facilities like computational biology or biomedical informatics or sequencing core to them through various departments. Medical libraries support biomedical research by providing their traditional various services such as providing access to journals and books, obtaining licenses for electronic resources, providing instructional workshops and effectively acquiring digital materials. In this service, library users are trained in the use of these various resources to maximize the use of their collections. (Chattopadhyay and Othres)

Referral Services

One of the main functions of a library/LRC is a referral service. The library/LRC guides its users to obtain the information required in education, teaching, and research; it is referred to or directed to them, and it also provides information and reference services to them from various external information sources. (Ilogho and Others)

The World Health Organization (WHO) states about referral that "referral is a process in which a health worker at one level of the health system has insufficient resources (insufficient information about drugs, equipment, skills, etc.) to manage a clinical condition, seeks the assistance of a better or differently resourced facility at the same or higher level to assist or manage the client's case." Given the above, the Learning Resources Center (LRC) ensures an effective referral system for its users through an effective and efficient referral system, coordination between its users and them, mechanisms, tools, and working methods, communication and feedback systems, and transportation systems. Provides effective referral service to them through a referral system keeping in mind executive protocol, trained personnel, efficient teamwork among all levels, integration of factors such as information recording systems, accountability, and monitoring performance. (Seyed-Nezhad and Others)

Advanced Searching Services

In this service, the Learning Resources Center (LRC) helps its users to search for their information using selected keywords and phrases on a wide range of resources so that they can

quickly find and make the most of their collection and literature from elsewhere. In addition, they are trained to use a variety of techniques, from Boolean logic to truncation and proximity searching, to accurately and completely search their data acquisition.(Advanced search techniques)

Apart from this, Education Resource Centers offer various services to their users such as,

- LRC/library services can be accessed anywhere in the library through a library/LRC card. For example, you can reserve the book you want online or renew it.
- A LRC/library for reference service helps users to find information from digital resources. And tries to get it from another place.
- Assistive technology provides information to them through tablets or other technology devices.
- Support services are provided to library/LRC users to help them in their academic and research.
- The main objective of LRC is to help in promoting their users by organizing various programs of the LRC like library/LRC orientation program, workshops, training etc.
- A bibliographic integration service provides users with a digital bibliography on a specific subject or subject reading list through Web OPAC.
- Newly added information sources in the library/LRC are advertised to their users through digital media such as email, websites and digital notice boards.
- Facilitates distance-learning and quick access to critical clinical resources for their users.
- The clinical information's system is an extension of the clinical role of the current learning resource center.

A Swot Analysis of Learning Resource Centre

The SWOT analysis method assesses the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats facing an organization or any structure. Strengths are characters that have an advantage. Weaknesses are characters in which disadvantages arise compared to other systems. Opportunities are characteristics that generate external possibilities to improve performance. Threats are external factors that can cause problems.

A learning resource center's system is structured and prioritized by identifying its strengths and weaknesses in its internal environment and new opportunities and threats in its external environment. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats of the Learning Resources Center Identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the Learning Resources Center in the strategic management of the medical education sector.

Strengths

Demonstrates the learning resource center's (LRC) resources or ability to successfully achieve its goals and objectives within the LRC internal environment. By knowing the weaknesses of the LRC, efforts can be made to remove them and gain strength from their weaknesses. By focusing on opportunities, those opportunities can be converted into strengths. Strength can be gained by facing threats.

- The Learning Resource Center contributes significantly to saving the time of health students, teachers and health professionals of the institution through a variety of services, and strives to make the results of various literature searches relevant and useful to its users so that the information they need is provided to them in a effective library services. In short, Learning Resource Centers help save you time and money by providing quick and effective information to their users.

- Strengths of Learning Resource Center Provides immediate feedback to students and teachers on various platforms of Learning Resource Center by customizing and restructuring information for their studies and research according to their information needs.

- The strengths of a learning resource center can be identified through its resources, finances, staff skills, competencies, infrastructure, and relationship with hierarchy, and overall workforce capabilities.

- The Learning Resource Center helps share their vast wealth of diverse knowledge through their best practices.

- The Learning Resource Center strives to meet the information needs of its users by providing you with the curated information you need to meet their information need goals.

Weaknesses

Weaknesses or shortcomings of the Learning Resource Center and its limitations thereby hampering the library in achieving its set goals and objectives. Those that are weak factors need to be improved. Weaknesses of the Learning Resource Center should be mitigated, improved, and or eliminated completely.

- Weaknesses of learning resource centers include a lack of qualified, competent, and adequate staff, a lack of digital and electronic resources, a lack of digital space, a lack of communication with management, and inadequate and obsolete technologies and infrastructure.

- Various factors such as poor reporting systems, bias and lack of credibility face weaknesses against the learning resource centres in providing their good services.
- Learning resource centers sometimes face difficulty in providing their users with the information they need due to financial constraints.
- Measuring the veracity of various types of online information can sometimes be very difficult. Because of this, the Learning Resource Center has to face a challenge.

Opportunity

An opportunity is a favourable manifestation in the external environment that is beneficial for the development, and expansion of the learning resource center. The external environment of the library is treated as a favourable situation; those positive events that occur externally in academic libraries can be pursued with new strategies.

- Learning resource center's must be constantly aware of expanding new opportunities for the health sciences librarian, both within the health sciences learning resource center's as well as outside. In particular, knowledge of new disciplines of health science education, new opportunities to develop knowledge and skills in research-related health science data, open access resources, institutional literature repositories, or scholarly communication are essential.
- In many areas of health science and biomedical research, health science librarians must develop opportunities to direct continuing education in health science topics. Opportunities exist to become a director of information technology in areas such as data management, assessment, or education positions within the institution's clinical and translational science programs. There are opportunities for librarians to strengthen their positions in academic health science institutions.
- Instead of the traditional name, they are called bioinformaticist, clinical informationist, clinical librarian, clinical medical librarian, embedded clinical librarian, information specialist in context (ISIC), public health informationist, research embedded health librarian (REHL), research informationist, and research librarian. There are opportunities to create their new identity under a new name and position. (Virginia Commonwealth University)
- Learning Resource Center Health sciences librarians should seek opportunities to develop an understanding of their institution's research process so that the Learning Resource Center can assist researchers in new projects at the institution. Given the importance of the research enterprise to their organization and new opportunities for

their users, a framework should be designed to quickly find and access the information they need.

- Learning Resource Centers should seek collaboration opportunities beyond the institutional or national level to develop partnerships, grants, and funding opportunities for new global health areas of health science education and research to support their users of global health information in their institution's teaching and research. Finding opportunities to collaborate with their users, and supporting research and development is essential to reducing health disparities.

- Learning resource centres have an opportunity for marketing and promotion of new services to meet the needs of their users through their central service of information services to access their collections through their library services. Learning resource centres focus on new technologies and their medical librarians focus on their disciplinary expertise, which has created opportunities to develop their skills as systems specialists or instructors. (Limbachiya and Patel)

Threats/ Challenges

Threats against the Learning Resource Center are situations that arise in the external environment. Which sometimes creates a detrimental situation for the development and expansion of their learning resource center. Harmful events that occur from outside in learning resource center's are external conditions that pose a challenge to the functioning of the learning resource center. The learning resource center's is sometimes faced with a harmful situation due to difficulties from the external environment that pose a threat or challenge to the learning resource center.

Nowadays, the responsibility of the Learning Resource Center has emerged as a "bioinformatics database specialist" for research and clinical activities, so it has become a challenge to provide the necessary information to students as well as doctors and other health workers involved in clinical activities. Because of these changes in health education, health care, and technology, education resource centres sometimes face challenges in providing medical teams with the information they need for health science and medicine education. Threats are challenges or obstacles found in the learning resource center's external environment that may cause problems in the learning resource center's operations.

- Problems are sometimes encountered due to the ever-changing data-driven trend of health sciences, knowledge of advanced research metrics, or constant changes in research technology relative to the professional expertise of librarians. This sometimes

leads to the possibility that library staff's high emotional intelligence can differentiate between their user groups.

- Threats in Learning Resource Center are the external factors that sometimes threaten the success of learning resource center operations. Factors like inadequate financial and electronic resources, high demand for changing needs of users, and increase in the cost of publications should be identified and eliminated or minimized in the learning resource center.

- Administrators of Learning Resource Center sometimes face challenges in managing electronic information resources, and retrieving information from various search engines to make information resources accessible from multiple locations. Users sometimes face challenges due to ignorance to access information from various electronic information resources.

- The lack of space within the building for the purpose of displaying its various literature in the Learning Resource Center poses major constraints on carrying out the required information outreach to its users.

- Due to workload and other reasons, some employees in learning resource centres are creating problems due to their non-participative and careless attitudes.

- Professional librarians face challenges in delivering information to their users due to inadequate professional staffing in learning resource centers.

- Professional librarians in education resource centers sometimes face the challenges of identifying ineffective health information, engaging experienced staff, focusing on reaching health information to their users, and establishing criteria for advocacy development and management. (Nongo and others)

Conclusion

To make the Learning Resource Center the center of its educational activities in the Institute of Health Sciences, efforts should be made to increase the use of various collections of the library by selecting materials from various sources, organizing them properly, so that it is very important to meet the demands of the students and teachers of the institute. A resource center should also be established so that the users of the resource center can get the information they need immediately.

The Learning Resource Center plays an important role in promoting electronic information resources in addition to its traditional educational resources such as books, journals, and software and audio/visual materials. And with the help of electronic journals, databases, free websites and other web-based resources, the role of the librarian and his staff has been

replaced with that of the LRC manager, so that colleagues and students can have quality and timely access to resources. Learning Resource Centers can be very effective in providing their information needs by making effective use of the Learning Resource Center by their users.

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