



MANLIBNET LECTURE SERIES



on

Changing Role of Libraries & Librarians: Experience of Drexel University Libraries

A brief report of the invited talk given by Mr. Jay Bhatt

As part of MANLIBNET (Management Libraries Network) LECTURE SERIES – a new initiative from MANLIBNET, IIT Gandhinagar Library and MANLIBNET jointly organized the very first invited talk on 23rd December 2014. IIT Gandhinagar had invited Mr. Jay Bhatt who is currently a Liaison Librarian (Engineering Discipline) in Drexel University Libraries, USA to deliver the first talk on '**Changing Role of Libraries & Librarians: Experience of Drexel University Libraries**' in this series. The program started with a warm welcome & introduction of the guest speaker by Dr. T S Kumbar, Librarian at the host Institution. This lecture was organized keeping in view the following objectives;

- To know the changing role of Libraries & Librarians from an international perspective with a focus on US Libraries
- To understand how the libraries services integrated/embedded in to institutes academic and research activities
- To know the best practices implemented in library by International academic institutions
- To share the library practices & experience carried out at Drexel University Library
- Building a partnership between IIT Gandhinagar library and participants' library for mutual benefits and strengthening library services for the future.

Location & Time

This talk was held in the main Auditorium at IIT Gandhinagar Auditorium on 23rd December 2014 and timing were 10.30 AM to 12.30 pm.

Participation

Over 75 professionals from Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Rajkot, Anand, Nadiad and other nearby cities places in Gujarat participated in this program. Quite a few faculty and students from IIT Gandhinagar also participated in this event.

Summary of the talk

Mr. Jay Bhatt talk was focused on the broad theme "Changing Role of Libraries & Librarians: Experience of Drexel University Libraries". His talk weaved very well the different aspects viz, academic learning vision and library role, innovations and risk in librarianship. He presented the characteristics of

an innovative librarian. He mainly emphasized on how to get library services embedded in to the university activities. Gave number of examples and presented some of the case studies experimented at his university. His presentations also included how using web 2.0 tools and other technologies, he has collaborated number of activities with different group of users to promote library services. He emphasized on the fact that, the libraries have to be taken to where the user is and the action is happening. He also shared the best practices followed in Drexel University Library. He shared few photographs of Drexel University Library to demonstrate the fact the library as place and space is changing. He suggested that, we need to focus on flexibility in make the space available for learning. The key message from his talk was that Libraries need focus on empowering users with information skill which will help in lifelong learning. The talk ended with number questions from the enthusiastic audience, to which Mr. Jay responded very well citing his own experiences and different examples.

The program ended at almost close to 12.30pm by presenting a memento to Mr. Jay Bhatt by Prof. R. Sharan, IIT Gandhinagar in memory of his visit and sharing his experiences with fellow professionals. The interaction between the speaker and the participants continued over cup of tea & snacks for some time.

Most participants expressed that organization of this kind of programs from time to time is the need of the hour.

